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OF INDIA

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Peter Magyar takes oath as Hungary's PM, ending Orban's 16-year autocratic rule and pledging to return the nation to European fold

NDA show of strength as Suvendu sworn in as first BJP CM of Bengal

Woman Among Five Ministers Who Took Oath

Tamaghna Banerjee & Rohit Khanna | TNN

Kolkata: BJP began its first stint in office in Bengal Saturday with Suvendu Adhikari being sworn in as the state's first saffron chief minister along with five cabinet ministers, as PM Narendra Modi joined a lakh-plus crowd at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata to witness a former Left and then centrist bastion take a sharp turn towards right.

BJP and RSS veteran Dilip Ghosh, designer-turned-politician Agnimitra Paul, ex-junior Union minister Nisith Pramanik, another RSS old-timer Khudiram Tudu and Matua face Ashok Kirtaniya were other five ministers to take oath. The new cabinet will hold its first meeting Monday. An expansion is likely next week.

The pick of ministers displayed a careful balance between regions — a nod to women (without whose support BJP would've found it difficult to beat TMC) and an acknowledgement of RSS's organisational support (another key factor in party's landslide win).

FULL COVERAGE: P 6, 11, 15
▶6 new ministers likely in Yogi cabinet today, P 12

Photos: PTI/IANS

PM Modi with Suvendu Adhikari after he took oath as CM at Kolkata's Brigade Parade Ground on Saturday. (Right) Modi kneels down and bows with folded hands to thank the people of Bengal for the mandate

Adhikari picks EC ex-observer as his adviser

Kolkata: Retired IAS officer Subrata Gupta crossed swiftly from EC oversight to Bengal's new power corridor Saturday, appointed adviser to new CM Suvendu Adhikari barely 48 hours after the poll panel relieved him as special observer for the Bengal polls.

IAS officer Shantanu Bala, a 2017-batch bureaucrat who earlier served as additional district magistrate of South 24 Parganas, was appointed CM's private secretary. "We want to give these efficient officers a chance to work for people. We want to bring back these officers," Adhikari said. TNN

▶Bow to Jana Shakti, P 11

▶Efficient officers, P 11

CBI searches at 17 sites in cases linked to ADAG

New Delhi: The CBI on Saturday conducted searches at 17 locations in Mumbai in connection with three cases registered against Reliance ADA Group companies, Reliance Telecom Ltd, Reliance Commercial Finance Ltd and Reliance Home Finance Ltd and their directors.

According to the CBI, the searches were carried out at the residential premises of directors of the companies and offices of intermediary firms allegedly used for diversion of bank funds. The searches were conducted on the basis of warrants issued on May 8 by a special CBI court in Mumbai. The CBI said incriminating documents were seized during the searches. TNN

▶Same address, P 10

Indian sailor killed, four hurt as dhow catches fire, capsizes near Hormuz

New Delhi: An Indian sailor was killed and several others injured after their dhow caught fire and capsized near Strait of Hormuz on Friday. The cause of the fire is still being ascertained, according to govt sources.

"A wooden Dhow, carrying general cargo, with 18 Indian crew capsized yesterday close to the Strait of Hormuz after it caught fire. Crew members were rescued by a vessel which was passing by," said a govt source requesting anonymity.

"One Indian on the dhow died while four received burn injuries. The injured are receiving medical treatment in Dubai and are safe. Our officials from the Indian consulate met the rescued Indian nationals last night itself. The consulate is also in touch with the dhow owner," he added. TNN

US, Iran may resume talks next week

US and Iran could resume negotiations as early as next week in Islamabad, as per a WSJ report. It said both sides are working through mediators on the one-page, 14-point MoU intended to establish the framework for a month-long negotiating process. **Inside Jkt**

20k Indian shippies stuck in Gulf: Union

Over 20,000 Indian seafarers are staring at a humanitarian nightmare in the Gulf and Strait of Hormuz, with fears of conflict spillover leaving crews stranded without food, medicine or escape routes, seafarers' union NUSI said. **P 12**

Saturday camps to start from May 16 to help with khata

Authorities will hold special khata camps every Saturday across Bengaluru, starting May 16 to assist property owners convert their B-khatas into A-khatas and secure valid property documents. Between five and 10 centres will operate in every corporation area under the "Khata Andolana" campaign. **P 5**

Union min's son faces Pocso case

Telangana cops filed cross-cases against Union minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar's son Bandi Bageerath & a 17-year-old girl's family after allegations of sexual harassment & intimidation surfaced late Friday. Bhageerath accused the girl of attempting to honeytrap him and extort money. **P 7**

Hantavirus case reported in Spain

Suspected cases of hantavirus appeared in Spain and remote island of Tristan da Cunha after a cruise ship outbreak killed three. The cases are separate from WHO's tally of eight people who became ill aboard the ship. WHO said all on board the ship were "high-risk" contacts. **Inside Jkt**

US plane hits man walking on runway

A Frontier Airlines plane ran over a pedestrian on Denver airport runway during takeoff, sparking an engine fire, which was later extinguished. The plane was quickly evacuated and 12 passengers reported minor injuries. The man "was at least partially" sucked in, ABC News said. **Inside Jkt**

ED arrests Pjb min, AAP alleges 'intimidation'

Chandigarh: Enforcement Directorate on Satutrday arrested Punjab minister **Sanjeev Arora**, 62, in a money laundering case, sending shockwaves through AAP and triggering turmoil in an already charged political atmosphere less than a year ahead of assembly polls.

Arora is one of the most high-profile ministers in CM Bhagwant Mann-led Punjab cabinet. Mann accused Centre of "weaponising" central agencies to target opposition netas, and said Punjab "would not bow to politics of intimidation and vendetta". TNN

▶'Political vendetta', P 10

Shah: Chitradurga will get its Madakari memorial

Chitradurga: At a rally Saturday marking 50 years in public life of former Karnataka CM B S Yediyurappa in Chitradurga, Union home minister Amit Shah linked BJP's political gains in West Bengal to the party's ideological expansion. Shah said the rise of the saffron flag in West Bengal marked a historic moment for BJP's ideology.

Shah also renewed the promise of building a memorial for the 18th-century ruler, Madakari Nayaka, who is remembered for resisting Mysore ruler Hyder Ali and defending the famous Chitradurga Fort.

Shah also credited Yediyurappa for helping the party form its first govt in south India in 2008 and thereby opening the doors for the BJP. **P 4**

Amit Shah with former Karnataka CM Yediyurappa in Chitradurga

Modi in B'luru today

PM Modi will attend the 45th anniversary celebrations of The Art of Living Foundation and 70th birthday celebrations of Sri Sri Ravi Shankar in Bengaluru Sunday. He will also inaugurate the newly built Dhyan Mandir at the centre. **P 4**

Fugitive Abhay Rana extradited from Portugal

CBI, in coordination with MEA and home ministry, has secured the extradition of fugitive Abhay Rana from Portugal to India. The accused, wanted in multiple criminal cases, including attempt to murder, was brought to Delhi on May 9 by a Haryana Police team. **P 6**

Lt Gen Subramani (retd), expert on Pak and China, appointed next CDS

New Delhi: An expert on Pakistan and China, Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani (retired) has been appointed the country's next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). The govt has also appointed Vice-Admiral Krishna Swaminathan as the next chief of Indian Navy, **reports Surendra Singh.**

▶'Test of Agni with MIRV tech a success', PAGE OPP

Lt Gen Subramani (L); Vice-Admiral K Swaminathan to be new Navy chief

While Lt Gen Subramani will replace General Anil Chauhan, who completes his tenure on May 30, Vice-Admiral Swaminathan will succeed Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, who is set to retire on May 31.

Currently, the military adviser at National Security Council Secretariat, Lt Gen Subramani's most crucial priority will be implementation of the theaterisation model by rolling out integrated military commands.

▶Force modernisation, P 12

WFI issues show-cause to Vinesh, bars her from Gonda comeback event

Sabi.Hussain @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: In a major setback to Vinesh Phogat and her comeback endeavour nearly 20 months after her retirement following her dramatic disqualification at the Paris Olympics, Wrestling Federation of India on Saturday barred the star wrestler from competing in the Senior Open Ranking Series event in Gonda beginning May 10.

In a 15-page long show-cause notice, which detailed a litany of disciplinary and anti-doping related charges, WFI said Vinesh would remain ineligible to compete in any WFI competitions and events till June 26, 2026. The federation also cited violations linked to retirement and return-to-competition regulations under United World Wrestling rules.

Vinesh's event was scheduled on Tuesday in Gonda — bastion of former WFI chief, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh against whom Vinesh and five others have filed sexual harassment complaints.

Vinesh after returning from the Paris Olympics in Aug 2024

▶Legal options, P 16

Police probe leak, online sale of Customs data

Delhi Police registered an FIR after Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs reported a major breach of sensitive customs data from protected systems, **reports Rajshekhar Jha.**

Investigators found that stolen trade information, including pricing, supplier links and sourcing patterns, was being sold through nearly 70 websites in India and abroad. CBIC officials secretly purchased sample datasets and confirmed they matched official records despite altered headers.

Police are examining possible insider involvement including a disgruntled official, along with economic espionage.

Provisions of Customs Act, IT Act and BNS have been invoked. **P 6**

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Census effect: Cities will see 'less crime' next yr

Atul.Thakur @timesofindia.com

In 2027, most Indian cities will show a decline in crime rate. That is a safe prediction to make. Historical precedent suggests crime rates in large Indian cities fall sharply in a Census year. This is not because of better policing, but because of a mathematical glitch — one that the National Crime Records Bureau mentions in its fine print, but which is often missed in reports based on its data.

NCRB updates the number of crimes every year. But for cities, it uses the last Census population as the denominator for calculating crime rate. That remains unchanged until the next Census. So, while crimes recorded each year may rise or fall, the population used to calculate the rate stays frozen — usually for a decade, this time for over 15 years.

This is why comparisons such as "Delhi's crime rate has risen" or "Delhi's crime rate is higher than Mumbai's" can be misleading unless the population base is understood.

5 CITIES WITH STEEPEST DECLINE IN CRIME RATE AFTER 2011 CENSUS

Cities	2010			2011			
	IPC Crimes	Pop*	Rate	IPC Crimes	Pop*	Rate	+-
Kochi	25,715	14	1,898	34,658	21	1,636	-261
Vizag	7,112	13	535	4,886	17	282	-253
Bengaluru	32,188	57	566	30,283	85	356	-210
Indore	14,230	16	868	14,504	22	669	-199
Ahmedabad	21,442	45	475	20,203	64	318	-156

*Population in Lakh | Source : NCRB

Take Delhi. In the latest NCRB report, the population used for Delhi City is 1.6 crore, based on the 2011 Census. But projected population of Delhi NCT is 2.2 crore. Since Delhi City accounts for almost the whole of NCT, the city clearly cannot still have only 1.6 crore people if NCT has 2.2 crore.

This difference changes the crime rate sharply. The number of IPC crimes for both Delhi and Delhi City is 2,75,402. But because NCRB uses different population bases, Delhi's crime rate is shown as 1,259 per lakh, while Delhi City's rate is 1,688 per lakh — 34% higher.

In 2001 Census, India had 35 cities with million-plus populations. When city populations were updated in 2011, crime rates fell in 27 of them. Kochi's rate dropped from 1,898 per lakh to 1,636. Visakhapatnam, Bengaluru, Indore, Ahmedabad and Bhopal also saw drops of over 150 points. The steepest 'falls' came in fast-growing cities, where the old population number had become most outdated.

▶Outdated Census data, P 10

Bangalore Times

Cinema has to move beyond self-sacrificing mothers, says Sudha

'There's never a day off from being a mother'

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4 BHK	2742 SFT.	₹2.40CR*	₹2.37CR*
5 BHK FLOOR VILLA	3939 SFT.	₹3.51CR*	₹3.37CR*

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CASAGRAND building aspirations

MSMEs burn under soaring LPG costs, face 20-30% loss

Over 24% Of Industrial Units In Peenya Area Depend On LPG

Vindhya.Pabolu
@timesofindia.com

Photo for representation

FUTURE TENSE: Industrialists said LPG prices increased by nearly 50% per metric tonne from March to May due to supply shortages, forcing them to bear additional costs

DEMAND VS SUPPLY: RISING CONSTRAINTS

- Peenya industries dependent on LPG: **Over 24%**
- **Industries affected:** Engineering, welding, forging, paint, chemical, battery manufacturing and barrel units
- Industrial LPG demand: **8,000-10,000 cylinders daily**
- Industries using LPG: **Around 3,000 units**
- Total MSMEs: **7 lakh units**

Bengaluru: Industries across Bengaluru, particularly micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), are facing mounting pressure as commercial LPG prices have risen sharply over the past few months, significantly increasing production costs.

Industrialists said LPG prices increased by nearly 50% per metric tonne from March to May, while commercial cylinders in the market are reportedly being sold for as high as Rs 4,500 due to supply shortages. The latest hike of Rs 991 has pushed the price of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder to Rs 3,153.

Manufacturers said most industries operate on annual contracts, leaving little room for immediate price revisions and forcing them to absorb the additional costs. Engineering units, welding workshops, battery manufacturers, barrel makers, paint units and several other industries in and around Bengaluru rely heavily on LPG during production.

S Shanmugam, a barrel manufacturer, said: "Before March, LPG prices were around Rs 75,000 per metric tonne. They surged to about Rs 1.5lakh in April and nearly Rs 1.7lakh in May, severely impacting industries operating on fixed contracts. While steel price variations are covered, there is no provision for rising fuel costs, forcing manufacturers to absorb losses. LPG is critical across production stages, including paints and chemicals. Commercial cylinders that cost Rs 1,000 are now selling for nearly Rs 4,000 in the open market, pushing many industries to shift to PNG wherever infrastructure is available."

Industrial bodies in Peenya estimate that over 24% of industrial units directly depend on LPG, with sectors such as welding, forging, paints, chemicals and battery manufacturing among the worst affected.

DP Narendran, president of the Peenya Industries Association, said: "Commercial LPG cylinder prices have officially risen to around Rs 999, but private suppliers in the open market are charging nearly Rs 4,500 due to inadequate supply. Over 24% directly depend on it, while many others are impacted indirectly through welding and gas-based operations. Due to this, many are facing 20%-30% losses. We have repeatedly sought a separate industrial LPG quota but nothing has been done."

Balakrishna MG, former president of the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry and an LPG supplier, said industries are gradually shifting towards piped natural gas (PNG) wherever possible. "At present, at least 300 industries in and around Bengaluru depend on LPG. High-volume users are shifting to GAIL gas to cut logistics costs, but non-pipeline areas still depend on LPG. The PNG transition will take 5-10 years due to infrastructure challenges. Currently, 8,000-10,000 LPG cylinders are supplied daily for industrial use in Bengaluru," he said.

MSMEs mull transition to PNG & GAIL gas

Impacted by the crisis, a few are also exploring PNG and GAIL gas options for shift. Balakrishna said, "Some industries are exploring PNG and GAIL gas connections, but there are major limitations. The infrastructure cost is very high and natural gas does not provide the same heating capacity as LPG, especially for operations requiring temperatures of 1,400-1,500 degrees Celsius. In several industrial areas, there is still no proper pipeline connectivity, making the transition difficult. We met GAIL officials last week but negotiations are still ongoing, as the infrastructure cost is very high."

Meanwhile, Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) has written to the Centre seeking relief measures and support for MSMEs facing mounting losses. The apex body represents over 6 lakh MSMEs and 12 lakh traders in Karnataka.

Uma Reddy, president, FKCCI, said: "LPG hike is too steep and engineering industries are badly hit as production costs have almost doubled overnight. There will be a trickle-down effect and food prices have already increased in hotels. Many Bengaluru industries, especially welding and battery units, continue to depend on LPG."

Industries have sought urgent relief similar to the Covid period, including guaranteed credit support for MSMEs. They cite export payment delays due to war-related shipping disruptions, straining cash flows across the supply chain.

They have also demanded a six-month deferment of EMIs and GST payments without penalties or credit impact, and an extension of repayment tenures.

'Locked up, starved', says nanny at IIM-B campus

Times News Network

AI

EMPLOYER IN SOUP

Bengaluru: A 23-year-old nanny, a native of Manipur working in Bengaluru, has accused her employer's spouse of illegally confining, assaulting and starving her at their residence on the campus of Indian Institute of Management Bangalore in Bilekahalli on Bannerghatta Road.

In a complaint filed with Mico Layout police station, the woman, C Nianghaunuam, said she had been working since 2019 at the residence of Amar and his wife Anshu on the IIM-B campus, primarily taking care of their children while also residing in the house.

According to the complaint, the alleged harassment began in 2021. Nianghaunuam claimed Anshu frequently assaulted her, constantly checked her mobile phone conversations and, at times, confiscated her phone.

"Even when I was ill, she would beat me. I was assaulted several times and cannot remember all the incidents. The last assault took place on April 15, after which I was locked inside the house," she alleged in the complaint.

She stated food was allegedly denied to her from the morning of May 4 and that she had to seek help from neighbours. "The neighbours provided me with bananas and parathas, besides helping me with a phone through which I contacted my relatives and members of Kuki Students' Organisation Bengaluru (KSOB) for assistance," the FIR stated. Police have registered a case under BNS Sections 115(2) (voluntarily causing hurt) and 127(4) (wrongful confinement).

IIM-B issues statement

Soon after the incident came to light, IIM-B officials, in a statement, said the institute had extended necessary assistance and support to the woman despite her not being employed through institute contractors. "We remain committed to following the law, due process and doing the right thing," the institute said in the statement.

Girl, 5, dies after wall, gate collapse

Bengaluru: Days after the compound wall collapsed at Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital that claimed seven lives and raised concerns over the safety of ageing structures in the city, another similar tragedy claimed the life of a five-year-old girl in Dwarakanagar near Chikkabanavara in west Bengaluru Friday.

The deceased is identified as I Gousia. Police said Gousia and her sister Shakila, daughters of a fruit vendor Imam Ramiza and his homemaker wife, were playing with neighbourhood kids at 5pm. They were climbing the compound wall and stepping on the gate when the small pillar connecting the structure gave way. "Both suffered head injuries and were rushed to hospital, where Gousia succumbed," an officer said. TNN

85% turnout for Comed-K UG entrance examination

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Around 85% of the registered students appeared for the Comed-K UG entrance test held Saturday.

Comed-K exam holds key to approximately 20,000 seats in about 150 engineering colleges of Karnataka.

Uni GAUGE is an entrance exam for participating 30+ private universities in India.

ComedK and Uni GAUGE are conducted as a single exam with separate merit lists. The exam was conducted in two sessions on Saturday.

Total number of candidates who attended the ComedK Engineering Test was 1,10,787 out of 1,30,620. In Karnataka, the attendance was around 88%, while in Bengaluru, the attendance was 90%.

Case of malpractice

One case of malpractice was reported from a centre in Gujarat, where a candidate was caught with a mobile phone and using ChatGPT.

The candidate was debarred from writing the examination.

The provisional answer keys will be notified May 13 and the final answer key May 20. The rank card will be available on May 26.

Factory worker, 28, ends life

Bengaluru: A 28-year-old garment factory worker allegedly died by suicide at his residence in Srigandhanagar in north Bengaluru after reportedly being distressed over the breakdown of a live-in relationship.

RIFT IN RELATIONSHIP

The deceased, Tippeswamy, was a native of Chitradurga. Based on a complaint filed by his parents, police registered a case of abetment to suicide against a woman.

Police said the woman, a resident of Davanagere, is married and has two children. She reportedly met Tippeswamy through social media and the two moved to Bengaluru last year, where they rented a house in Srigandhanagar.

Police said the woman returned to Davanagere around two weeks ago following differences between them. "Tippeswamy was reportedly depressed after she left. He was later found hanging in the house," an officer said. TNN

BMRCL withdraws Purple Line suspension ahead of PM visit

Times News Network

Bengaluru: The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) has withdrawn its earlier public notice regarding the temporary suspension of Metro services on the Purple Line Sunday.

BMRCL had initially planned to suspend services between Hosahalli and Cubbon Park Metro stations on Purple Line from 7am to 9pm.

However, sources said, in view of multiple events in Bengaluru, including the 45th anniversary celebrations of the Art of Living Foundation, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to attend — Metro services will now continue without disruption.

A press release from BMRCL stated: "In view of the large number of passengers expected to travel across the city to various events, and with the objective of facilitating smooth and convenient passenger movement, BMRCL has decided to commence Metro services from 5am Sunday."

Services will begin at 5am from all terminal stations on the Purple, Green, and Yellow lines, operating as per the regular schedule.

PM-JAY explores AI shield against healthcare insurance deception

Times News Network

Officials said the rapid rise of AI tools has increased the possibility of fabricated clinical notes, manipulated diagnostic reports and fake patient records entering insurance workflows

Bengaluru: As forged medical documents and AI-powered fraud emerge as a growing threat to health insurance programmes, policymakers, startups and researchers gathered at Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru as part of a two-day Auto-Adjudication Hackathon Showcase 2026, to develop automated systems capable of detecting fake claims under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).

Officials said the rapid rise of AI tools has increased the possibility of fabricated clinical notes, manipulated diagnostic reports and fake patient records entering insurance workflows. Reused patient photographs for multiple ICU claims, altered watermarks, ghost identities and suspicious treatment patterns were also identified as emerging fraud trends. "We started observing this trend recently. Before the problem becomes too large to handle, we need systems capable of identifying such fraud patterns," said Jyoti Yadav, joint secretary (PMJAY), NHA. According to NHA CEO Sunil Kumar Barnwal, AI-enabled anti-fraud systems introduced over the past two years have already helped prevent fraudulent claims worth nearly Rs 690 crore.

The hackathon focused on three major problem statements. The first dealt with clinical document classification and compliance with Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs). Team Nirnaya, led by Vinay Babu Ulli, won the category for developing an AI-supported system capable of reading healthcare claim documents and assessing treatment guideline compliance. The second category focused on radiological image-based condition detection and report correlation. Team BiltIQ AI, led by Harish Kumar, won for developing tools to assist interpretation of radiological images within healthcare claims workflows. The third category addressed document forgery and deepfake detection. Team Sopa Claims, led by Praveen Sridhar and Snehal Joshi, won for building AI-based systems detect forged documents.

Barnwal said AB PM-JAY currently covers over 60 crore beneficiaries and has facilitated treatment worth Rs 1.8 lakh crore for over 12 crore people in the past seven years. "Every day, we process nearly 40,000 claims. The aim is to make processing automated and transparent," he said. He added pilot AI-based systems for dialysis and cataract claims have reduced processing time drastically, with nearly 90% of such claims being cleared within four hours compared to 15-20 days under manual scrutiny.

4-month-old baby dies in dog attack

Times News Network

A four-month-old baby girl died after being attacked by a dog in Dubalagundi village of Humanabad taluk in Bidar district early Saturday morning. Her sibling, two-year-old Pradeep, sustained injuries in the attack and is undergoing treatment at Humanabad taluk hospital.

The dog entered the house around 5am and attacked Shivani, while she was sleeping in the hall. The children's mother, Sudharani, was in the kitchen at the time, while the father was away from home. Hearing the children crying, she rushed to the hall and saw the dog attacking them.

Both children suffered severe injuries. The dog had bitten them on the head, face and other parts of the body. They were first taken to a local primary health centre and later shifted to BRIMS Hospital in Bidar, where Shivani succumbed to her injuries.

Humanabad police registered the case.

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Fresh spices, 'Ginnu' & rural charm attract city crowds to UHS Santhe

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Pics: Syed Asif

SLICE OF VILLAGE LIFE: Over 6,000 visitors from across the city visited the monthly santhe at GKVK to purchase organic and good quality products and also to experience the rural life

Bengaluru: In a city increasingly shaped by 10-minute delivery apps, the 'UHS Santhe' at the Gandhi Krishi Vigyan Kendra (GKVK) campus is drawing thousands of Bengalureans every second Saturday, searching for something harder to deliver by these aggregators — the smoky aroma of freshly pounded spices, the lingering taste of warm Ginnu (Colostrum milk pudding) and a slice of rustic life.

Organised by the University of Horticultural Sciences (UHS), the third edition of the santhe was bustling with visitors carrying cloth bags, sampling spice powders, savouring ginnu, checking organic fruits and vegetables, homemade chutney powders, vegan milk, millet and dry fruit based protein mixes, papads, pickles and region-specific spice blends from farmers and women self-help groups.

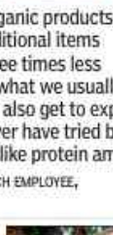
Officials said attendance has steadily increased, from around 3,000 during the first edition to nearly 6,000 this Saturday. Nearly Rs 6 lakh worth business was generated across 55 stalls. SL Jagadeesh, associate professor, research and extension, RHREC, said: "We want farmers to sell their products directly to consumers. Also, here we create a village-like setting during the santhe so that families can come, have a picnic while also accessing good quality items."

For many stall owners, the fair is also preserving culinary traditions that are slowly disappearing from urban kitchens. Rama Om Prasad sold papads, pickles and chutney powders based on recipes passed down by her mother. Her mixed dal and flaxseed chutney powders, she said, were originally designed as nutritious food supplements for children. Similarly, Mahesh K Bhyratae from Tiptur showcased a coarse Marathi-style sambar powder made using hammer mills to retain texture and flavour. "We wanted people to experience authentic flavours again," he said.

One of the busiest counters was run by Harish Kumar and Arpitha Harish from Yelahanka, who sold ginnu sourced from their goshaala in Ramanagara.

"We come here for organic products, wild honey and other traditional items because they are almost three times less expensive than what we usually find outside. We also get to explore products we never have tried before or found online, like protein ambli

Pavan SM | FINTECH EMPLOYEE, SAHAKARNAGAR



"We sell unique products like wood apple barfi, wood apple powder and juice, raw mango juice. First time, we sold our products here and we realised the demand was so much here, especially among the IT crowd

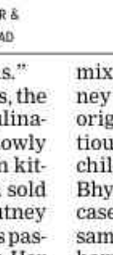
Kalpana Umesh | A STALL OWNER FROM TUMAKURU

"Usually, stores label products as organic and charge almost double, but after cooking we do not find much difference. Here, the vegetables and pulses are of high quality and affordable. Today, we even found traditional products like karamani masala and an 11-grain mix

Viru Mutta | FROM SAHAKARNAGAR & **Bhagawati P** | FROM NEW BEL ROAD

"I brought my daughter, nephew and niece. These kids do not get a chance to see rural elements. They really enjoyed the ginnu here. Coming to a place like this is an experience

Jisha Kanakat | A VISITOR FROM JALAHALLI

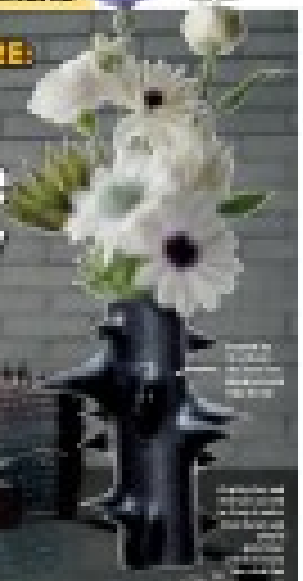


"When you see the environment here, you feel like you are in a good place. You can see the products for yourself and buy them, which we often miss when we shop online

Sridhar G | A PRIVATE FIRM EMPLOYEE FROM BYATARAYANAPURA

NOT SO QUIET ANYMORE:

Milan's latest cue for luxury homes



WINDOW TO THE WORLD

THE ENDURING ALLURE OF THE SILVER SNEAKER

WHEN SCENT MEETS NEUROSCIENCE

$34M GRANT TO CREATE PLASTIC-FREE FABRICS

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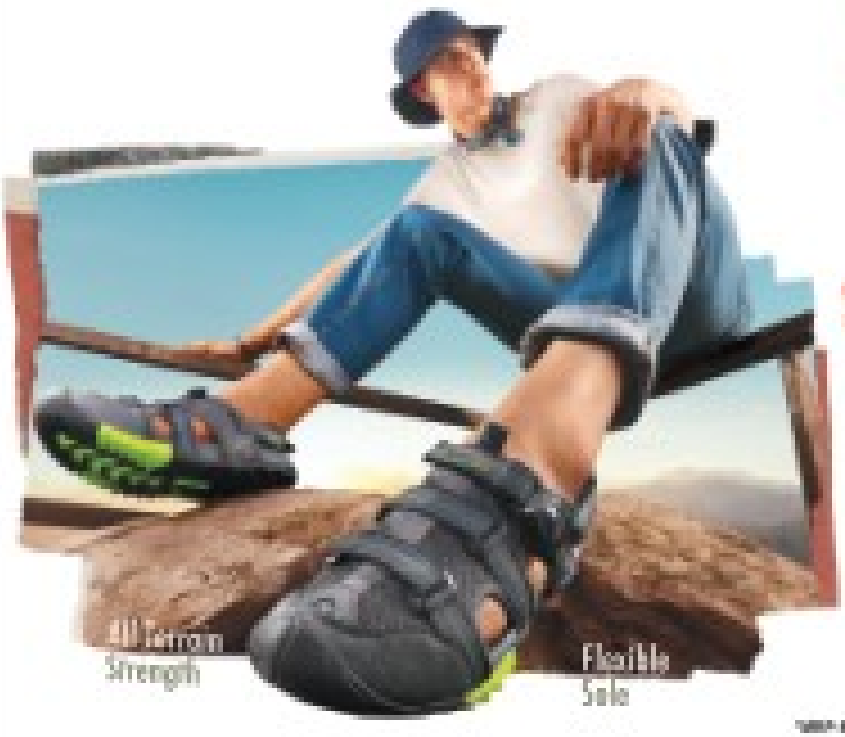
Motherhood has taught me that perfection is overrated, says Soha

I'm more like a friend to my children than a stereotypical mother: Sudha Belawadi

Q

My mother and I have always been friends before anything else. One of the biggest lessons she taught me is to stay cheerful and believe that problems can be solved almost anything. Even when we're on video calls, she's one of us and constantly laughing, and it's usually us who take

sparx



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Kanakapura Road gets rapid makeover ahead of Modi visit

Hamsaveni.N@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Art of Living Foundation ashram Sunday, civic agencies intensified road repair and cleaning work along the busy Kanakapura Road and adjoining areas. Potholes were filled, garbage cleared, and roadside stretches spruced up in preparation for the visit.

Sources said Modi is expected to travel by helicopter from the HAL airport after landing in Bengaluru and arrive at a temporary helipad near the NICE Road junction. From there, he will proceed to the ashram by road.

Officials of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), however, maintained that the PM's visit only expedited long-pending maintenance work in the area rather than prompting any special arrangements.

The Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) said maintenance activities were carried out along a nearly 3-km stretch from the 100 Feet Road in Banashankari 6th Stage (Bayyanapalya) to the Turahalli forest area.

The works included filling potholes using eco-fix cold-mix tar, clearing roadside debris and flex banners, cleaning footpaths, trimming trees, and removing garbage along the expected VIP movement corridor.

Officials said nearly 40 potholes were repaired as part of the exercise. Around 120 pourakarmikas from Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) were deployed for cleaning operations, while 40 auto tippers and eight tractors were used to transport waste.

Since the Art of Living (AoL) campus falls outside the limits of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), civic officials said the South Corporation handled maintenance works till the jurisdiction boundary (NICE junction), while the Kaggalipura gram panchayat managed to repair the remaining stretch.

TOI

QUICK FIX: GBA officials said PM Modi's visit expedited the long-pending road maintenance work

"There are no separate funds for this. We had planned to take up maintenance works on multiple roads and the PM visit as a coincidence. More than garbage, we found a lot of debris dumped along the roadside. Since this area lies at the end of the GBA boundary, it appears many people are illegally dumping debris here," a BSCC executive engineer said.

Ramesh KN, commissioner of the Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC), said high-profile visits often help civic agencies coordinate and expedite pending civic works.

"We considered this occasion as an opportunity to carry out maintenance work and fix things. Otherwise, it becomes very difficult to mobilise people and complete the work quickly. For the PM's movement, the GBA, BMRCL, PWD and RDPR have come together to beautify the roads," he said.

Officials from the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) also confirmed that minor roadside clearance works were carried out along portions of the route.

HEALTH AWARENESS INITIATIVE

Understanding immunotherapy for head and neck cancer

Head and neck cancers remain a significant health concern in India.[1] These cancers affect areas such as the mouth, throat, and voice box, and can impact essential functions like speaking, eating, and breathing.[2] Many patients and caregivers I meet today want to understand better the treatment approaches available for treating cancer.

For decades, surgery, radiation therapy, and chemotherapy have been, and continue to be, the main pillars of cancer treatment. Surgery is typically used to remove the tumour, while radiation therapy and chemotherapy help destroy cancer cells. With advances in science, advanced treatment approaches are now becoming available.

One such approach is immunotherapy. While the science may seem complex, the core idea is relatively simple. Our immune system is designed to protect us. Every day, it identifies and removes abnormal cells. Special immune cells constantly scan the body for anything unusual and act when needed. However, cancer cells can sometimes avoid detection. When this happens, the body's natural defence does not respond as effectively as it should.[3]

Dr Nidhi Tandon
Consultant Medical Oncology, Mazumdar Shaw Medical Centre, Author, Bangalore

One way cancer achieves this is through what we call 'immune checkpoints'. I often explain these as safety switches within the immune system. Their role is to prevent the immune system from becoming overactive and damaging healthy tissues. Under normal conditions, they help maintain balance. But cancer cells can exploit these checkpoints by sending signals that keep the immune system switched off, even when cancer cells are present. As a result, the immune system may not recognise cancer as a threat.[3] This is where immunotherapy plays a role.

Like all cancer treatments, immunotherapy can have side effects. Because it activates the immune system, some patients may experience fatigue, skin reactions, or inflammation affecting organs such as the lungs, liver, or thyroid.[3] In my experience, with regular monitoring and timely care, many of these effects can be managed effectively.

Certain immunotherapy treatments work by blocking these misleading signals. When these signals are blocked, the immune system is better able to recognise and respond to cancer cells. In essence, it helps restore the body's ability to detect and act against abnormal cells

What I find encouraging is that immunotherapy focuses on strengthening the body's own defence system.[3] While it may not be suitable for every patient, it has added an important dimension to how we approach treatment. For many patients and families, understanding how these therapies work can make the journey feel more informed and less overwhelming.

IN-KEY-01620 || 2/5/2026 | 21/7/2026

References:
1. International Agency for Research on Cancer – Global Cancer Observatory (India Fact Sheet)
2. National Cancer Institute. Head and Neck Cancer
3. American Cancer Society. Immunotherapy

Disclaimer: This feature is not intended to be a substitute for medical advice. Consult your medical practitioner before acting upon the information. Issued in public interest by MSD Pharmaceuticals Private Limited for awareness purposes.

Amit Shah links Bengal win to BJP's ideological growth

Promises Madakari Nayaka Memorial In Chitradurga Dist

Basavaraj Maralihalli | TNN

Chitradurga: Union home minister Amit Shah Saturday linked BJP's political gains in West Bengal to the party's ideological expansion across the country. He also promised a memorial for Chitradurga ruler Madakari Nayaka in the central Karnataka city.

Addressing the BSY Abhimanotsava rally in Chitradurga to mark 50 years in public life of former chief minister BS Yediyurappa, Shah repeatedly referred to the rise of the saffron flag in West Bengal and called it a landmark moment for BJP's ideology.

"Today is a great day. The land where Sri Aurobindo, Swami Vivekananda, Ramakrishna Paramahamsa and Shyama Prasad Mukherjee were born has today witnessed the rise of the saffron flag," Shah said.

Shah also revived the promise of building a memorial for Madakari Nayaka, the 18th century ruler remembered for resisting Hyder Ali and defending the famous Chitradurga Fort. The ruler is closely associated with the legend of warrior Onake Obavva.

"I had promised it ahead of the 2023 assembly elections but unfortunately our party did not return to power. But do not worry, Modi ji is there. We will definitely build that memorial on this very land," he added.

> I was not born with a golden spoon in my mouth. I grew up as an ordinary man through many unexpected turns in life and dedicated the last 50 years to serving people... RSS gave me values and discipline. I never fought for power or dreamt of becoming CM. Party workers shaped my entire political journey
> **BS Yediyurappa** | FORMER CHIEF MINISTER

TOI

BOWING TO VETERAN: Union home minister Amit Shah with BS Yediyurappa at BSY Abhimanotsava in Chitradurga Saturday

NO MODI PHOTO ON MAIN STAGE

PM Narendra Modi's absence from the giant backdrop of the main stage of the event triggered discussions among BJP workers. While large photographs of Amit Shah and Yediyurappa dominated the stage, Modi's image was missing, drawing attention from party workers. However, three giant balloons carrying images of Modi, Shah and Yediyurappa were seen near the venue. The stage, measuring 112 feet in length, 40 feet in width and 10 feet in height, was the main attraction at the event.

He also paid tribute to Onake Obavva, calling her an inspiration for children across the country, and highlighted the presence of seers from different religious sects on the stage as a symbol of social harmony.

Pitching Karnataka as central to BJP's southern growth, Shah said the party was once dismissed as weak in south India before forming its first govt in the state in 2008. Crediting Yediyurappa for changing the party's fortunes, he said: "Yediyurappa proved those who declared that BJP will never form govt in South India, wrong."

Union minister Pralhad Joshi recalled Yediyurappa's early struggles in building BJP in Karnataka. "His life proves hard work and compassion make a true leader," Joshi said.

BJP state president BY Vijayendra said his father never chased power but fought for people and described him as "another name for sacrifice, hard work and struggle". "He has seen many ups and downs in life. But no matter what challenges or political conspiracies came his way, he never turned his back and ran away. He faced everything courageously," Vijayendra said, adding, "I will continue his work and I need my party's and people's support," he added.

Dissident camp leaders skip BSY fete

Several BJP functionaries seen as close to dissident camps stayed away from the Yediyurappa Abhimanotsava. Among the prominent absentees were Ramesh Jarkiholi and his associates. Former MP Pratap Simha and some others met Yediyurappa privately but skipped the public programme. Former Union minister GM Siddeshwara, despite being viewed as politically opposed to Yediyurappa, attended the event. The programme also saw the presence of more than 500 seers and pontiffs from mutts and spiritual centres across Karnataka. Former minister KS Eshwarappa also skipped the event. Shivamogga MP BY Raghavendra had personally invited Eshwarappa, who had been expelled from BJP in 2024, as he contested as an independent candidate for the Shivamogga Lok Sabha constituency against Raghavendra.

TN Congress MLAs not in Bengaluru: DKS

Bengaluru: Deputy chief minister **DK Shivakumar** dismissed reports Saturday that five Congress MLAs from Tamil Nadu were staying at a resort in Bengaluru, calling it fake news and clarifying that the hospitality establishment in question was closed for renovation.

"It is false that Congress MLAs from Tamil Nadu have come to Bengaluru. I will do what the party tells me to. But I have no information about Tamil Nadu affairs," he told reporters. He said he would follow direction from the high command, but added that no one from the party had contacted him regarding the matter.

Shivakumar later in the day visited the Thirunallar Saneeswaran Bhagwan temple in Karaikal and offered prayers. During his visit there, he stressed the need for unity among secular forces. "We (Cong) have already given our commitment; we want to see secular forces uniting. That is our only intention. We want democracy to be restored properly," he added. TNN

Free coaching to go offline

Karnataka will shift its free entrance exam coaching programme for science students in govt and aided PU colleges from online to offline mode from the coming academic year.

Under the new plan, coaching will be conducted within colleges by existing PU lecturers, who will undergo special training before taking charge of the programme. TNN

State ministers raise SIR concerns, urge vigilance

Times News Network

Bengaluru: With the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls set to begin in Karnataka, two senior ministers Saturday voiced concern over misuse of the exercise, warning that selective deletion of names could weaken public trust in elections.

Food and civil supplies minister **KH Muniyappa** suspicion had spread across the country over the SIR process and stressed the need to prevent irregularities.

"There is confusion across the country regarding this issue. Discussions were held on the misuse of SIR and how to prevent it," Muniyappa said, referring to a meeting chaired by chief minister Siddaramaiah Friday. Representatives from various organisations attended the meeting to discuss safeguards during the voter roll revision exercise.

Home minister G Parameshwara said Karnataka too must remain alert while carrying out the revision process. "In our state as well, the SIR process will begin. We also need to be careful. Anything that has allegedly happened in West Bengal should not be allowed here," he said, adding that the chief minister had already reviewed the issue.

Parameshwara said electoral mapping work had been completed in some areas and was pending in others. Referring to political debates around West Bengal, he said analysts had linked alleged voter roll manipulation to BJP victories in nearly 100 seats by narrow margins. "This should not be allowed in Karnataka, and we are careful," he added.

Clarifying that Congress was not opposed to updating electoral rolls, Muniyappa alleged that the exercise was being carried out selectively. "We are not against the revision of electoral rolls. But what is happening is that names of those who should remain are being retained selectively, while others are being removed. This creates suspicion across the country," he said.

He said protecting citizens' voting rights should remain the priority. Referring to claims made by former West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee, Muniyappa alleged that lakhs of names had been deleted from voter rolls in that state.

Govt issues fresh order on internal quota

Times News Network

Bengaluru: The state govt Friday issued a fresh order implementing an interim arrangement for internal reservation within the 15% cap earmarked for scheduled castes (SCs) in education and public employment, pending the high court's final verdict.

The interim order states that 20% of the vacancies and educational seats available under Category C would be reserved for 59 most backward SC communities

The fresh order was issued by the social welfare department after the earlier one on the same matter issued by department personnel and administrative reforms (DPAR) on April 27 was withdrawn.

In the interim arrangement, 5.25% reservation was allocated to left-hand communities under Category-A, 5.25% to right-hand communities under Category-B, and 4.5% to other touchable SC communities under Category-C. The order stated that 20% of the vacancies and educational seats available under Category C would be reserved for 59 most backward SC communities. If eligible candidates from these communities were unavailable, the seats and posts would be filled by other eligible aspirants within Category C.

The order stated that in recruitment notifications where fewer than three SC roster points were available, all 101 SC communities would be eligible to compete for the reserved posts. The govt also instructed the departments concerned to immediately begin the recruitment process to fill 56,432 approved posts. For implementing the revised quota in recruitment, all departments were directed to follow a 400-point roster system in consultation with the social welfare department.

The govt directed the departments and recruiting authorities to withdraw earlier recruitment notifications issued under previous internal reservation orders and issue revised notifications in accordance with the new arrangement.

However, notifications for recruitments where competitive examinations had already been conducted would not be withdrawn.

The order further directed the recruiting authorities to immediately initiate the process to fill 56,432 posts that had already received approval across various departments.

City institute among top 50 for Global Schools Prize

Delhi Public School Bangalore North (DPSBN) has been named among the top 50 schools for Global Schools Prize 2026 in the Inclusive Education category. The $500,000 prize, instituted by Varkey Foundation, celebrates the world's most innovative and impactful schools that are reimagining education for the future. The Top 50 will be narrowed down to 10 category winners, who will each be awarded $50,000. Of those, one extraordinary school will receive Global Schools Prize and $500,000 to scale its impact.

Founder of Varkey Foundation, Global Schools Prize and GEMS Education, Sunny Varkey appreciated the school's approach to teaching and learning, which demonstrates how schools play a defining role in equipping young people with knowledge, skills and values needed to shape the rapidly evolving world. "This is more than an award – it's a platform to spark a global conversation about scaling the best ideas in education and advancing action far beyond the classroom," he said.

Marking 50 yrs of excellence in education

Ryan International School, Kundalahalli, celebrated 50 glorious years at its annual day and Montessori graduation day on the theme, Brave the present, Rise to the future, reflecting the institution's journey of resilience, innovation and commitment to excellence. The celebration reached a crescendo with the grand unveiling of the golden jubilee logo.

DANCE PERFORMANCES WITH SOCIAL MESSAGES

The cultural evening featured vibrant dance performances on saving animals, protecting the environment, social media awareness, defence forces and women empowerment. A musical medley, Sound of Success, highlighted the milestones of Ryan's legacy. International flavours enriched the programme with a German folk dance and Vietnamese fan dance, alongside energetic Goan rhythms and jungle beats.

The audience was mesmerised by thematic presentations such as The Journey of a Pioneer, Symphony of Innovation, Beyond the Scoreboard, A Kaleidoscope of Dreams, and Courage to Collaborate. The celebration stood as a testimony to five decades of holistic education and an inspiring vision shaped by chairman Augustine Pinto and Grace Pinto.

Montessori graduation day marked a milestone in children's learning journey. Dressed in graduation robes and hats, children received certificates and participated in musical performances, skits and talent displays.

Young skater scripts world record feat

NPS Jalahalli celebrated the achievement of its young skating star, Varenya Prasad (LKG), who brought pride to the school with her participation in a world record skating event, making it to the USA Book of World Records and Asian Book of World Records.

HISTORIC WIN

On Jan 26, she took part in the largest simultaneous roller skating performance held across multiple cities in India. The event saw participation of over 520 students. Varenya showcased determination, balance and stamina by performing nonstop skating for 1 hour, 26 minutes and 26 seconds at the Divisional Sports Complex, Garkheda, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.

Two drown after coracle tears apart

Bengaluru: Two daily wage workers drowned in a lake near Bannerghatta after an old coracle they attempted to board reportedly tore apart Friday evening.

The deceased were identified as Ambarish and Anand, natives of Yadgir, who had been working at an under-construction building in Begehalli. According to police, the two men entered Begehalli lake using an old coracle, which is believed to have torn apart mid-way, causing them to drown. Their bodies were recovered from the lake Saturday morning, police added.

BEGEHALLI LAKE

According to investigators, the workers would regularly enter the lake after work to cool off from the summer heat. On Friday evening, while they were in the water with a few co-workers, Anand noticed an old coracle floating nearby and swam towards it. Ambarish followed soon after.

Police said the two men attempted to climb onto the coracle, but its worn-out middle portion suddenly gave way, throwing them into the water. As their co-workers watched helplessly, both men drowned. After local residents alerted the police control room, personnel from Bannerghatta police station, fire and emergency services, and local swimmers launched a search operation Friday night. However, the two could not be traced.

The search resumed Saturday morning, when both bodies were recovered. TNN

No specific reasons given for varsity action: Students

▶ Continued from page 1

The Spark APU reading circle, affiliated with All-India Students Association (AISA), the student wing of CPI-ML, had organised the discussion.

Even before the reading event on Kunan Poshpora could begin, around 25 alleged members of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the students' wing affiliated with RSS, who were all outsiders, entered the campus, vandalised property, injured security personnel and raised slogans. Police later detained them and the event was cancelled.

READING EVENT

The APU students' body has criticised the constitution of the Special Disciplinary Committee by the university and questioned why students were being held responsible for violence allegedly carried out by outsiders. "A two-year suspension subject to future 'review' before re-admission is equivalent to expulsion," protesting students complained.

Students alleged that the suspension email from the APU registrar did not specify the reasons behind its disciplinary action, but only cited sweeping breaches such as "defiance of institutional processes and guidelines", "misrepresenting facts", and "violating the university code of conduct".

"The university claims that the Special Disciplinary Committee arrived at this decision after their investigation. However, no report of this investigation has been sent to the suspended student," the students claimed. An FIR was filed against a section of APU students based on complaints lodged by the university administration.

"Azim Premji University conducted a thorough inquiry into the events of 24 Feb 2026. Following a careful review of the investigating committee's recommendations, the university has taken disciplinary action against three students. One student has been suspended for two years, while the other two have been issued written warnings," a university spokesperson said in a statement.

Jacket for Thompson's 1959 Rambler is key show piece: Mark Ramos

Nocturism & the dark sky palette rule

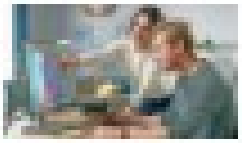
Why nocturism is popular today

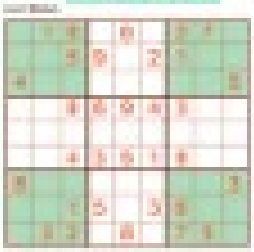
Know the dark sky palette

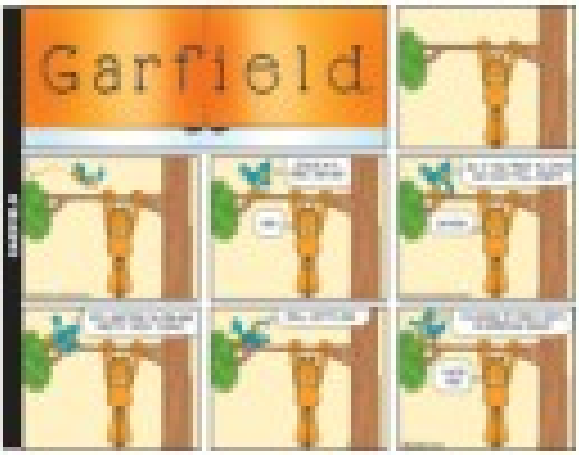
READER RESPONSES FROM LAST WEEK

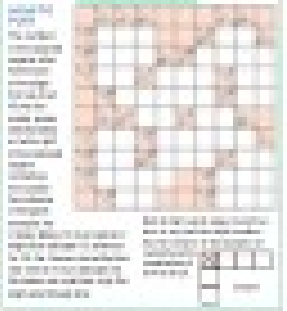
Neonatal care essential for preterm survival: Expert

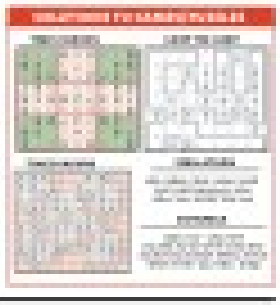
How to: Learn photo editing as a beginner











BOOK YOUR VEHICLE ADS

Khata relief: Saturday camps to issue records

5 To 10 Centres In Every Corporation Area

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Property owners struggling with khata issues may soon find relief, with deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar announcing a city-wide drive to correct and regularise property records.

As part of the "Khata Andolana" campaign, special khata camps will be held every Saturday across Bengaluru from May 16 to help people convert B-khatas into A-khatas and secure valid property records. An A-khata certifies that a property complies with civic rules and taxes have been paid. "We have already corrected 23 lakh khatas and provided an opportunity for people to download them," Shivakumar, who also holds the Bengaluru development portfolio, said. He stated the state govt had been converting B-khatas into A-khatas and would organise special khata camps to help citizens secure their property documents without fuss.

> **I appeal to people to make the best use of this opportunity and safeguard their property documents**
>
>
>
> **DK SHIVAKUMAR**
> Deputy Chief Minister

Between 5 and 10 centres will be opened in every corporation area during the campaign. "I appeal to people to make the best use of this opportunity and safeguard their property documents. It's for all citizens," he added. Calling it a "people-centric" initiative, Shivakumar also said the aim was to stave off fraud. "Your khata is your right. Obtain your khata and protect yourself from fraud," he said.

GBA had launched the scheme in Nov last year to streamline land records in Bengaluru. Under the scheme, B-khata property owners could apply for an A-khata by paying 5% of the guidance value. It, however, applies only to vacant plots and sites with single ownership (single-unit building). Earlier, the state govt had also launched a special e-khata drive across GBA limits, with officials visiting property owners to issue khatas at their doorsteps. So far, the authorities have digitised documents for 25 lakh properties and e-khatas are being issued for all properties.

Govt had also introduced a one-time settlement (OTS) scheme for property tax defaulters and it benefited over 2.6 lakh property owners, helping GBA collect over Rs 1,200 crore in dues. He said GBA had issued more than 12,000 online building plan approvals under the 'Nambike Nakshe' scheme.

Staffer from MP dies, four others hurt in fire at hotel

Bengaluru: A 45-year-old hotel employee died and four others were injured in a fire that broke out at an eatery in Malagala near Nagarabavi in west Bengaluru in the early hours of Saturday.

The deceased, identified as Raj Kumar, was a native of Madhya Pradesh and had been working at the hotel for nearly a year. The eatery operated from the first floor of a three-storey commercial building, police said.

According to police, 15–20 workers were asleep in different parts of the hotel when the fire broke out in the kitchen area, where Raj Kumar was sleeping.

"The fire was noticed by a few workers, who immediately alerted others and informed police," police said.

Fire and emergency services brought the blaze under control. However, thick smoke hjad spread through the premises, causing suffocation to Raj Kumar and four other workers.

All five were rushed to a hospital, where Kumar was declared dead. The other four are undergoing treatment, and the condition of one of them is said to be critical. TNN

Bike mows down leopardess

Shivamogga: A leopardess was killed after being hit by a motorcycle near Sakrebailu Elephant Camp on the outskirts of Shivamogga Friday afternoon.

While small animals are frequently killed in this area, the death of a sub-adult leopardess — allegedly struck by a high-end racing bike while crossing the road during the day — has caused shock. The bike rider is currently hospitalised. The motorcycle, valued at approximately Rs 12 lakh, has been seized.

The accused, from Koppa taluk, has not yet been interrogated or identified by the forest department as he is still undergoing treatment. Authorities are preparing to book him under the Wildlife Protection Act.

DCF (Shivamogga Wildlife) Prasanna Krishna Patgar confirmed that the Sakrebailu RFO has seized the bike. TNN

Man hurls acid at wife, sisters-in-law

Hubballi: Five people, including a six-month-old infant, were injured after a man allegedly attacked his wife and her two sisters with acid at Tarihal village, under Hubballi Rural police station limits, on Saturday.

Police identified the accused as Suresh Bail Pattar, 33, a resident of Vajapayee Nagar in Tarihal. Villagers said Suresh was in the habit of frequently clicking photographs of his wife Rajeshwari's sisters, Shruti and Reshma. Rajeshwari objected to his behaviour, leading to frequent quarrels between the couple. On Saturday, an argument escalated, during which Suresh allegedly threw acid on Rajeshwari and her sisters. In the incident, the acid also splashed on the infant and on Suresh himself, villagers said.

Hubballi Rural police, who visited the spot, said all the injured were rushed to KMC-RI Hospital in Hubballi. The condition of Suresh and Rajeshwari is stated to be critical.

"We have registered a case and are investigating the incident.," police said. TNN

317 schools to tie up with PM Shri ones

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Planning to extend benefits of PM Shri scheme to a larger number of students, Karnataka's school education department has decided to link 317 schools with 225 nearby PM Shri schools.

The state currently has 585 PM Shri schools, many of which are primary and high schools with moderate student enrolment. Under the new plan, govt schools located within a 1-2 km radius of PM Shri schools will be brought under their administrative ambit, while continuing to function from their existing campuses.

Officials said UDISE+ codes of the 317 schools will be integrated with neighbouring PM Shri schools. The schools will be renamed as PM Shri Joint Govt Primary School, High School or PU College. The department clarified that academic records of previous years available under the existing UDISE+ codes of non-PM Shri schools and PU colleges will remain intact. Midday meal services will also continue at the present campuses.

File pic

A PM-Shri School in Dakshina Kannada district

The order further stated that if the PM Shri institution is a boys' or girls' school, facilities available under the scheme should be extended to students of both categories of schools linked to it. A separate order will be issued regarding the formation of governing councils for PM Shri joint schools and colleges.

Belagavi farmer's youngest son is all-India topper in IFS exam

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Belagavi: Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) announced the results of the Indian Forest Service (IFS) examination on Friday, and **Basavaraj Dhareppa Kempawad**, a native of Savadi village in Athani taluk, secured the first rank in his second attempt.

Basavaraj belongs to a farming family of Savadi village. His family owns three-and-a-half acres of land. The achievements of the youngest son in the family, have brought joy to the entire family.

Basavaraj was a bright student since his school days. He studied from class I to V at a private school in Savadi and from class VI to X at Morarji Desai Residential School at Alagawadi in Raibag taluk. He did his PUC in Yallatti, Jamkhandi taluk, in Bagalkot district. He completed his BSc (Forestry) in Sirsi, Uttara Kannada. Later, he went to Bengaluru and pursued self-study to crack the IFS exam.

Siddu Kempawad, his elder brother, who is a constable in the Mysuru City Armed Reserve Force, said that Basavaraj did not pass the IFS preliminary exam on his first attempt, but his relentless efforts and hard work have paid off.

Celebrations in Savadi village

Savadi village in Athani taluk of Belagavi district has attracted the attention of the country due to Basavaraj's achievement. Congratulations are pouring in for the achievement of the son of an ordinary farmer. Villagers are celebrating the achievement of the proud son of the village, and are eagerly waiting for Basavaraj's arrival.

Basavaraj Dhareppa Kempawad expressed joy at his topping the IFS exam. "I am currently in Bengaluru, and will reach my hometown in two-three days. I have been able to achieve this as a result of my continuous efforts. I have been educated mostly in rural areas, and I am very proud to have reached this stage as a farmer's son," he said. "I did not resort to any special coaching classes. Instead, I studied for 14 hours a day. I was able to clear this exam by studying under the continuous guidance of my elders," he added.

"Coming from a farming family, I naturally had an interest in forestry, ecology and environment. I completed my graduate studies by choosing those subjects. I have decided that I should engage in social service," he said.

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Golden Opportunity to own a Plot in Madikeri Town
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Sri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Karnataka Housing Board
and
M/s. Pratipati Projects Private Limited Joint Venture Project
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Hon'ble Minister for Housing, Waqf & Minority Welfare, **Sri B. Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan** and Chairman of the Karnataka Housing Board **Sri K. M. Shivalinge Gowda,** Discussing the progress on Housing Projects at the Board Meeting

Scan here for Layout Location

RERA Approved Number: PRM/KA/RERA/1264/437/PR/110325/007577

Layout Features

- 9m, 12m, 15m & 18 Mtrs. Wide Roads • Street Layout Electrification
- Water supply and drainage system with Sewerage Treatment Plant
- Gardens and playgrounds
- Reserved Plots for Civic Amenities (Public/Semi-Public)
- Well planned Layout surrounded by abundant greenery

Convenient Location of Layout

- Adjoining to Madikeri Town • KSRTC Bus Stand
- Vivus Hospital • More Supermarket • Kendriya Vidyalaya
- Kodagu Medical College Institute
- Field Marshal KM Cariappa College

Loan Facility is available from Banks

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Karnataka Housing Board
Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bengaluru-560 009. Tele Phone: 080-2227 3511

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಗೃಮಂ/ಕಾ/ಹಂಚಿಕೆ/ಮಧ್ಯಂತರ ನಿವೇಶನ/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.05.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Karnataka Housing Board in collaboration with Prathipati Projects Private Limited, Bangalore has developed a residential estate with all basic and public facilities in a total area of 94.45 acres of land including various survey numbers in K. Nidugane village, Madikeri city, Kodagu district under a joint venture (Marketing JV) scheme. Applications are invited from the public online for the allotment of the following categories of plots in the said estate. The details of the properties available for allotment are as follows.

Location and District	Category and measurement (in Meters.)	Estimated Plots	Registration Fee (₹)	Initial Deposit (₹)	Price per Sq. Ft (₹)
K. Nidugane Village, Madikeri Hobli, Madikeri Taluk, Kodagu District	EWS - 6.0 x 9.0 M	32	300/-	50,000/-	775/-
	LIG - 9.0 x 12.0 M	179	500/-	1,75,000/-	1,550/-
	MIG - 9.0 x 9.0 x 15.0 M	83	1,000/-	2,00,000/-	
	HIG-I - 12.0 x 18.0 M	139	1,500/-	2,50,000/-	
	HIG-II - 15.0 x 24.0 M	26	1,500/-	2,50,000/-	

Applications can be submitted through the board's website **https://www.khb.karnataka.gov.in from 15-05-2026** to pay the registration fee and initial deposit through e-payment. **The last date for submission of applications is 16-06-2026.**

Terms and Conditions:

1) Interested public can submit online application for Madikeri project by paying registration fee and initial deposit through e-payment.
2) Applicants who have previously paid registration fee for houses and plots in Madikeri project in the demand survey on 29-06-2009 can also pay the prescribed initial deposit amount online to be eligible for allotment of this project. Since houses are not constructed in the said project, applicants who have applied for Madikeri project for houses will also be considered for allotment of plots.
3) Vacant plots including irregular plots in the said layout will be considered for e-lottery. Once a plot is allotted, no alternative plot will be allowed for any reason.
4) The properties will be allotted through category wise e-lottery as per Rule 9 of Karnataka Housing Board Allocation Regulations 1983.
5) Those who apply for reservation under the respective category (SC/ST/Defence/Ex-service, Central Govt, Phy-challenged person, Senior Citizen, others) should submit the documents along with the application.
6) If the applicant who applied in the demand survey dated 29.06.2009 also requested category wise reservation, the documents issued by the competent authority should be submitted along with the application.
7) If the amount paid is less than the prescribed initial deposit, such applications will not be considered for e-lottery.
8) At the time of application, the applicant should be a resident of the state of Karnataka for a period of not less than 10 years.
9) The applicant should upload a notarized affidavit stating that the applicant, his/her spouse and children have not obtained any flat/house/plot from the Karnataka Housing Board or any other local body/authority.
10) Applicants for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) plots should obtain an income certificate from the concerned Tahsildar stating that their annual family income does not exceed Rs. 1,20,000/- for those residing in rural areas and Rs. 2,00,000/- for those residing in urban areas and submit it along with the application.
11) The properties will be allotted on outright sale basis.
12) The total number of properties mentioned in the advertisement and the category wise properties are subject to change at the time of allotment. The Karnataka Housing Board reserves the right to do so.
13) The initial deposit paid along with the application will be refunded without any interest to the applicants whose sites are not allotted. Or if more applications are received than the sites available for allotment, the remaining applications after allotment of the available sites will be considered for allotment of 60% of the sites released in the project at the revised rate. In this regard, the applicants whose sites are not allotted will have to give a separate consent letter for refund after allotment or consideration for allotment of the remaining 60% sites.
14) In case of cancellation after allotment, 25% of the initial deposit will be refunded after forfeiting the money.
15) The project has been designed and constructed in accordance with the land elevation and during the construction of the building, appropriate retaining walls and foundations according to the soil bearing capacity (without affecting the technical and technological environment) shall be constructed and the design plan shall be approved by the Madikeri Urban Development Authority subject to the condition that permission from the concerned local body and technical opinion from the authority shall be obtained before the construction of the building in the design. Therefore, the above condition of the authority shall be applicable for the construction of the building in the allotted sites.
16) As per the condition imposed in the order number: V.E. 39 K.G.M. 2016 Bangalore dated: 28-04-2016, if any disputes arise in this project, the private developers shall resolve them. As per the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreements, which have been maintained by paying only marketing fees for the development of the project as per the government approval, the joint venture partner, Me: Pratipati Projects Private Limited, Bangalore, is solely responsible for the management of the assets allocated in the said layout and the layout and also for handing over the layout to the local body for further management.
17) For further information regarding the assets, the Joint Venture Project Partners may contact **(a) Shri Dayanand K.B., Manager, Tel. No.: 9739946532 (b) Gururaj Site Engineer, Tel. No.: 9686202507.** And for details regarding allocation and submission of application, **the Assistant Executive Engineer/Revenue Officer,** K.M.M., Kodagu Sub-Division, Mysore Office in person or through **Tel. No.: 0821-2343094/0821-2543237.**

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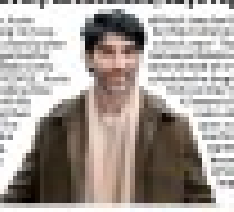

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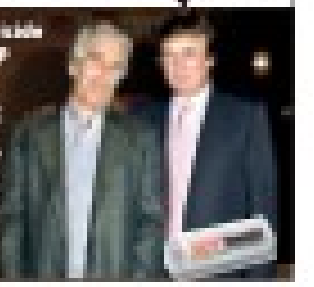

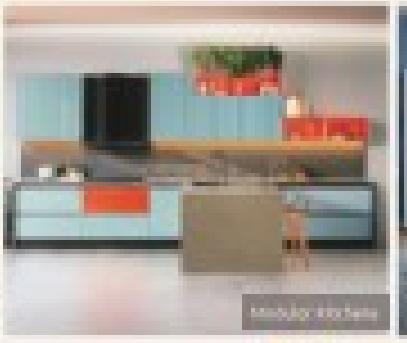

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*India has 91.5cr active internet users (aged above 2); Source: India Internet Report 2025

Under courts' MTP scrutiny, doctors face a dilemma

Experts: The Law Rests On A Flawed Structure That Prioritises Medical Approval Over Women's Autonomy

Malathy.Iyer@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Discussions across medical forums in recent weeks have centred around "problems" with the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act after two court interventions put gynaecologists under scrutiny.

"Why are doctors being made scapegoats?" asked senior Mumbai gynaecologist Dr Sudhir Naik, reflecting the anger in medical circles.

In one case, an FIR was filed against a gynaecologist at Satara Civil Hospital after a "failed" MTP involving a 16-year-old rape survivor ended in the birth of a live baby who later died without medical attention. In another, SC warned AIIMS doctors of contempt proceedings if they did not terminate a 30-week pregnancy of a 15-year-old rape survivor.

Though India extended the upper limit for termination from 20 to 24 weeks in 2021, doctors and legal experts say the law still rests on a flawed structure that prioritises medical approval over women's autonomy. SC bench in the AIIMS matter, incidentally, flagged the need for amendments.

"There are two things to be done. Decriminalise abortion and allow complete autonomy to women and not their doctors in this matter," said Dipika Jain, professor at Jindal Global Law School, Delhi.

NOT WOMEN-CENTRIC

To understand this, a historical perspective on abortions in India is needed: miscarriages or abortion were criminalised under the Indian Penal Code, with both the woman and her doctor liable for it. "MTP is criminalised even under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, unless it falls within the narrow exception created by the MTP Act," said gynaecologist Dr Nikhil Datar, who has long campaigned for extending the legal time limit.

Then in 1971, the MTP Act came up mainly as an exception to protect doctors. "It was decided that doctor's discretion would help decide on MTP, thereby making MTP a medical model not an autonomy model for the woman," said Jain.

Mumbai lawyer Anubha Rastogi agreed, calling the law "service provider-centric". Under the Act, termination is allowed only for legally recognised reasons and only when doctors form the required opinion. "This effectively turns doctors into gatekeepers," said Rastogi.

She, however, said that "the law is, thankfully, not getting into how you terminate the pregnancy. There is a process where you are allowed to do a certain set of things, you should be doing them without any court having to tell you yes or not". The law allows for feticide (a process in which an ultrasound-guided potassium chloride injection is given to the fetus when still in the uterus to end life). "It is in the written guidelines but it's not very clear to me why doctors are asking for the court to permit the process," she added.

WHAT MTP ACT SAYS

- **24 weeks** is upper gestation limit for abortion under **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act**
- If **foetus found abnormal, abortion allowed beyond limit** of 24 weeks with approval of **state-appointed medical board**
- Board considers whether continuing the pregnancy **risks the woman's life** or **causes physical or mental harm to the woman or the foetus**

WORSE FOR MINORS

That gatekeeping becomes most visible in cases involving minor rape survivors. Under current law, termination beyond 24 weeks is restricted to situations involving immediate danger to the woman's life or severe fetal abnormalities. For many minors who discover pregnancies late, only practical route is to move courts.

"A young rape survivor may not be dying physically, but continuing the pregnancy can destroy her life mentally and emotionally," Dr Datar said. He said that courts, including the Supreme Court, have permitted late-term abortions in exceptional cases even when the statute itself does not clearly allow them. "Those repeated judicial interventions expose the gap between legal text and reality," he said.

Jain questioned what she described as "disability exceptionalism." Courts allowed terminations even at 33 weeks in cases of fetal anomaly, showing that late-term procedures are medically possible. "Why," she asked, "should similar access be denied to rape survivors, minors or women facing changed circumstances?"

WHY MEDICAL BOARDS

While the 2021 amendment expanded gestational limits, some experts say it deepened bureaucracy. "Abortions up to 20 weeks require one doctor's opinion; 20 to 24 weeks require two doctors for specified categories; beyond 24 weeks, cases often depend on foetal anomaly or risk to the woman's life, with medical boards playing a decisive role," said Jain.

Dr Datar said that medical boards typically include a gynaecologist along with specialists from other disciplines. "The gynaecologist is the only person legally authorised and clinically trained to perform or certify an MTP," Dr Datar said. "Yet specialists who may never have performed even one termination can collectively outvote the gynaecologist."

CONFUSING NAME TOO

Dr Datar also said the law remains confusing in its very language. "India borrowed ideas from Britain's Abortion Act of 1967 but avoided using the word 'abortion' in its own law. Instead, the law uses the term Medical Termination of Pregnancy without clearly explaining its purpose," he said. He argued that the definition is so incoherent it can technically cover removal of a dead embryo, surgery for ectopic pregnancy or even an emergency caesarean section, while leaving deliberate fetal reduction in multifetal pregnancies in an ambiguous zone.

Koli women chart new waters, set up seafood company

Joeanna.Fernandes
@timesofindia.com

SELF-RELIANT

It's a Thursday morning, and three directors and several shareholders of a seafood company are gathered around a conference table, absorbed in a presentation on food packaging. "Good packaging adds value to a product; it can even fetch a higher price," says the instructor at the Indian Institute of Packaging, in Marathi.

As the directors nod, the silver tinsel in the pechak-che gajre in their hair and the gold naths in their noses gleam. The Koli women have never attended a workshop. Nor have they ever worked for a company — let alone run one. Yet they are directors of Daryavardi Producer Company Limited (DPCL), Mumbai's first fish farmer producer organisation: a community-owned enterprise led entirely by Koli women that aims to transform their fish-vending trade from a cottage industry to a corporate venture.

They already have 1,000 shareholders from the community. Besides delivering fish, masalas and snacks, they are diversifying into running live food counters and selling online. A community kitchen is up, a cloud kitchen is in the works, and exports are being explored.

April marked three years since company's formation. "We didn't realise packaging affects shelf life; we always sold fish in polythene bags," says Pratibha Patil, a director from Juhu Koliwada. "We've now learnt that packaging that is leakproof and attractive is not only more hygienic but can also help us sell more."

For 600 years, Koli women have plied their trade as they learnt it: moving in a straight line from landing centres and wholesale markets to independent sales counters. Even as markets evolved and competition cut into profits, their model remained largely unchanged. But new currents are now coursing through the community, altering the way its women do business.

And better packaging is only part of the shift. The larger picture includes streamlined operations, centralised logistics, product development, digital payments, soft-skills training, branding and marketing — all the functions of a modern business reshaping Koli commerce.

"We decided to follow the Amul model, bringing together Koli women to collectively produce and market fish and fish-based products. And because we wanted complete autonomy, we chose to run the enterprise not as a cooperative, but as a company," says Ujjwala Patil, a community leader who founded the fishers' rights organisation Daryavardi Mahila Sangh in 2018 — company's ideological forerunner. "What Amul did for the White Revolution, DPCL will do for the Blue Economy."

The company is an agglomeration of over 50 self-help groups anchored in koliwadas across the city, each carrying out specialised work that supports the larger business.

Will be CM for all, Suvendu says, shuts up Ram chants

'It's The Time To Rebuild Bengal, Not To Bicker'

Tamaghna Banerjee, Sudipto Das & Dipawali Mitra | TNN

Kolkata: West Bengal chief minister Suvendu Adhikari Saturday asked supporters to stop raising "Jai Shri Ram" slogans at Jorasanko Thakurbari, saying that as CM he now "belongs to everyone".

"Eta political kochkochir somoy na (this is not the time for political bickering)," Adhikari said at the ancestral home of Rabindranath Tagore, which he visited minutes after being sworn in as Bengal's ninth CM to pay homage to the poet on his 166th birth anniversary. "There are huge responsibilities ahead. Those who want to do that (political bickering) may continue; we will move forward."

The CM went to Jorasanko straight from the swearing-in venue at Brigade Grounds. He went down on his knees and touched his forehead to the ground in front of a Tagore bust. "We assumed office by paying respects to Gurudev. Bengal & Bengali culture must be guided by Gurudev's consciousness and ideals. Today marks that auspicious beginning. There is only one mantra from Swami Vivekananda — 'Charaibeti, Charaibeti' (keep moving forward)," he said.

Suvendu Adhikari greets PM after taking oath as CM

While he was speaking, chants of "Jai Shri Ram" rose from the crowd in the Thakurbari compound. Adhikari immediately asked the gathering not to raise such slogans on the campus. "This is not the place to say 'Jai Shri Ram', here only 'Kabiguru'," he said.

"I will not make controversial remarks now. I am the CM, I belong to everyone now. Bengal has already suffered immense damage. Education and culture have been destroyed. Let's rebuild Bengal," he said.

The CM then spent time talking to Rabindra Bharati University vice-chancellor Sonali Chakravarti and others from the varsity, which shares a campus with Thakurbari. An RBU official said Adhikari, a former student, accepted the university's request to have tea on campus, interacted with the VC at Bichitra Bhavan and ate nimki with black tea.

TMC appoints LoP, chief whip for WB House

Sarthak.G@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Trinamool Saturday named its octogenarian MLA **Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay** as the leader of the opposition and Firhad Hakim, also Kolkata mayor, as the party's chief whip in the Bengal assembly.

Chattopadhyay, Mamata Banerjee's close aide since TMC's formation in 1998, has emerged as the only Bengal MLA to serve a 10th consecutive term. He won from Ballygunge, defeating BJP candidate Shatarupa Chattopadhyay by 61,476 votes.

Hakim defeated BJP's Rakesh Singh by 56,080 votes from Kolkata Port. Trinamool also appointed two women members as deputy leaders in the assembly: Asima Patra and Nayna Bandyopadhyay.

Trinamool has also suspended party spokespersons Riju Dutta, Kohinoor Majumdar and Kartik Ghosh for six years for indiscipline after comments critical of the party brass and its electoral strategy.

TN manoeuvrings leave AIADMK in total disarray

C Shanmugha Sundaram & Julie Mariappan | TNN

Chennai: AIADMK plunged into fresh turmoil on Sunday after former minister C Ve Shanmugam rallied 36 newly elected MLAs against party general secretary **Edappadi K Palaniswami**, triggering a rebellion that threatened to split the party after another electoral setback.

Dissidents accused Palaniswami, or EPS, of taking "unilateral decisions" and pursuing "self-interest" over AIADMK's survival. AIADMK contested polls as part of NDA and secured 47 seats, while the alliance won 53 seats, with BJP contributing one seat.

Rebel functionaries have planned a presser Monday to announce their next move. "EPS is not taking decisions for welfare of AIADMK but for his self-interest," a neta in the Shanmugam camp said.

Crisis unfolded as Tamil Nadu grappled with a fractured mandate. According to party sources, Shanmugam and former minister SP Velumani had explored a post-poll tie-up with Vijay's TVK as the latter appeared short of a majority. EPS was simultaneously pursuing support from DMK, sources said.

Palaniswami held a closed-door meeting with AIADMK MLAs after their return from a Puducherry resort, then posted a cryptic message on X congratulating "a party that will form the govt", fuelling speculation that attempts to secure DMK backing had collapsed.

Hours later, Shanmugam and 35 MLAs assembled at his residence for strategy talks. Sources said rebel legislators were preparing to support Vijay during a confidence vote and stake claim as the "real AIADMK" inside the assembly. Shanmugam is eyeing the post of AIADMK legislature party leader. Senior netas failed to broker peace between rival camps.

Another source said Shanmugam accused EPS of "betraying voters" by attempting to seek DMK support through Udhayanidhi Stalin after AIADMK slipped to third place in the election. Sources said DMK chief MK Stalin had floated possibility of supporting an AIADMK-led govt during consultations with allies, including CPI, CPM and VCK.

For 'lavish' Haj, rich get to stay in 5-star, eat multi-cuisine buffet

Mohammed.Wajihuddin
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As the Haj pilgrims clad in ihram — men in two-piece, unstitched white fabric and women in loose-fitting, modest clothing — exit from Haj terminals in Jeddah or Medina, waiting luxury cars transfer them to the five-star hotels facing the Haram Sharif.

Located at almost a whispering distance from the sacred sanctuaries in the two cities, the high-end opulent hotel rooms provide vantage view of the holy sites. The pilgrims seek divine blessings and send salams to the holy Prophet as they gaze at the sacred sites. This year's Haj is in the last week of May.

This is about the pilgrims who have used "lavish Haj packages" to perform Haj in comfort. The comforts on the pilgrimage come with a price tag. Many super rich among the Muslims opt to utilize the convenience at almost every step during the holy trip. The comforts are reflected in the accommodation, both at the hotels and in the tent city of Mina and the plains of Arafat, in the vehicles they use, and in the food and beverages they are offered.

HOLY LUXURY: A lounge inside an AC tent in the tent city of Mina

"The package is tailored to suit the demand and taste of the rich pilgrims who are ready to pay for these luxuries. This is a religious journey no doubt, but why should not the pilgrims travel and stay in comfort if they have enough money to pay for?," asks Yusuf Ahmed Kherada, a Mumbai-based leading Haj and Umrah tour organiser operating for 36 years.

The trend, says Kherada, picked up after actor Aamir Khan requested "special, comfortable accommodation and travel" when he took his mother for Haj in 2011. "We made special requests to the Saudi authorities and arrangements were made at a premium cost," adds Kherada. And once it was done for Aamir and his mother, demands came for the high-end services by many others with deep pockets.

CBI coordinated gangster Abhay Rana's extradition from Portugal: Officials

New Delhi: The CBI coordinated the extradition of Abhay Rana, facing an Interpol Red Notice and wanted by the Haryana Police for extortion, criminal intimidation and attempt to murder, from Portugal on Saturday, officials said. In an operation, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) coordinated with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to secure the extradition of Rana, who was brought back to the country on Saturday by a Haryana Police team.

"The subject, namely Abhay alias Abhay Rana, was wanted by Haryana Police in a number of criminal cases registered in Haryana, involving offences such as extortion, criminal intimidation, operation of an organised crime syndicate, attempt to murder and issuance of life threats," a CBI spokesperson said. PTI

Kota hosp deaths: Doctor sacked

Jaipur/Kota: After two patients died in the post-operative gynaecology ward at New Medical College and Hospital in Kota, Rajasthan medical education department Saturday dismissed a doctor and suspended three healthcare staff members. A preliminary inquiry found serious lapses in patient-care protocols during caesarean deliveries. On Friday, two more women developed infection in the hospital's gynaecology ward. A similar post-C-section complication was reported from J K Lon Hospital in Kota. Assistant professor Dr Shraddha Upadhyay, serving on urgent temporary basis, was dismissed from service.

Operation theatre in-charge, senior nursing officer and labour room in-charge were also suspended. TNN

Sensitive customs data breached, sold online, Delhi cops file FIR

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New Delhi: Delhi Police has filed an FIR on a complaint from Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) reporting a massive breach of sensitive data from their critical information infrastructure and protected systems like Icegate, etc.The data was sold online and further put on sale by around 70 portals. CBIC officials, as part of their investigation, bought the data and found them to be authentic, matching their database information. The complaint was subsequently filed by a joint director of CBIC.

Police are learnt to be probing an "insider hand", besides an economic espionage angle, sources said. The role of a disgruntled customs official is under the scanner and several people have been questioned. The FIR reveals that highly sensitive trade data, including pricing, supplier relationships and sourcing patterns, was illegally extracted and put up for commercial sale online by dozens of entities across the globe.

The breach targets protected systems declared as critical information infrastructure under IT Act, specifically the ICEGATE and ECCS portals used by importers and exporters to file official documents.

According to the FIR, investigators identified 70 websites spanning Indian, Chinese, and other international jurisdictions that were purportedly monetising this stolen govt data. To verify the authenticity of the leak, CBIC officials conducted a "clandestine exercise" where they created undercover accounts and bought sample datasets from several platforms.

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Funeral Service Details
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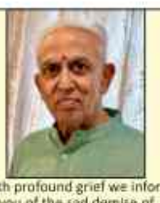

With profound grief we inform you of the sad demise of A. KALYANASUNDHARAM, FCA, Senior Vice President (Retd.) Income Tax Apellate Tribunal on 9/5/26 at Chennai.
Deeply mourned by
Jayanthi Kalyanasundhram (wife), Balambika, Jairam and family.
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23rd YEAR OF MEMORIAM

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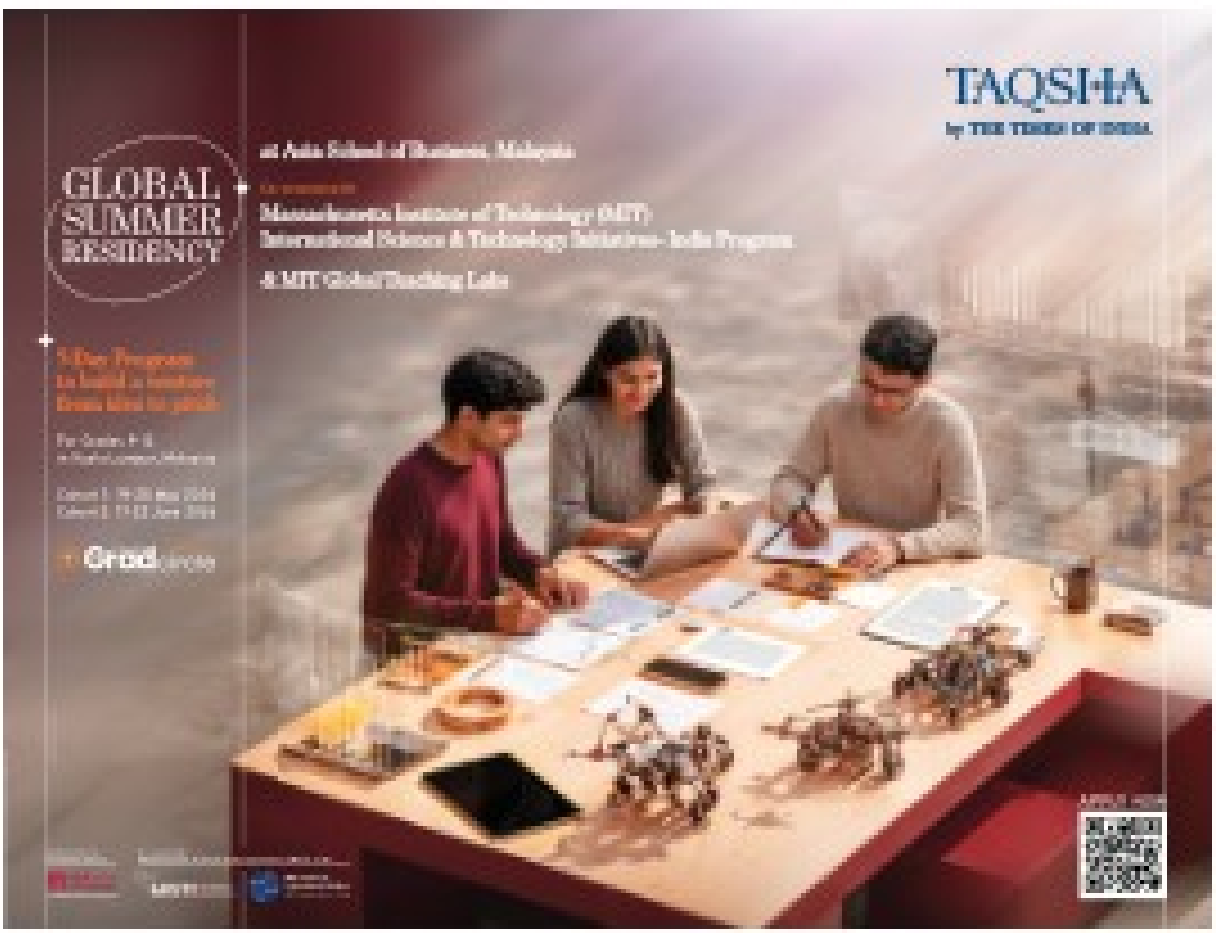
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Delhi high court protects Tharoor's personality rights

Orders Blocking Of Deepfakes

Abhinav.Garg@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The HC court Saturday granted interim relief to Congress MP **Shashi Tharoor** on his plea seeking protection of personality rights, and ordered removal of AI generated deepfakes, including fabricated videos showing him praising Pakistan, across digital platforms. Being a "respected and recognised public figure", Tharoor holds enforceable personality and publicity rights over all identifiable aspects of his persona, Justice Mini Pushkarna ruled.

The court barred anyone from reproducing, misappropriating or imitating Tharoor's name, image or visual likeness, distinct voice, signature oratorical cadence, manner of speaking, and highly refined vocabulary.

Justice Pushkarna said the Thiruvananthapuram MP's "reputation, goodwill, name, physical appearance/image/likeness, voice, mannerisms, styles, signature oratorical style and other attributes are uniquely identifiable and associated with him".

It said no one can create, publish or disseminate any synthetic media, deepfakes, voice-cloned audio or morphed video, through the use of AI, generative AI, machine learning or any other technology for any commercial, political or malicious purpose, across any physical or virtual medium.

It directed XCorp to remove specific links containing the disputed content and also instructed Meta to ensure that the identified Instagram URLs, which had already been blocked, remain inaccessible. It also ordered both platforms to disclose the identities and subscriber details of those who had allegedly uploaded or created the content within three weeks. Tharoor moved court seeking a permanent injunction against AI-generated deepfakes allegedly misusing his voice, likeness and image to depict him making politically sensitive remarks.

Fake papers in rape case: Pocso court seeks criminal action against BSA

Bijnor: A special Pocso court in Bijnor has ordered registration of a criminal case against Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA) and a retired teacher for allegedly submitting fabricated documents in a rape case. The education department forged papers to show the girl was a minor at the time of the incident. The "accused", who was acquitted later by the court, then took up the matter.

Public prosecutor Bhalendra Singh said that a rape case was filed in 2021 against a man and his kin under IPC sections 366, 376-D and section 6 of Pocso Act. TNN

Union minister's son faces Pocso case amid honey-trap counterclaim

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Hyderabad: Police in Telangana registered cross-cases against Union minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar's son and a 17-year-old girl's family after allegations of sexual harassment, extortion and intimidation surfaced late Friday.

Bandi Bageerath, 23, faces charges under provisions of BNS and section 11 of Pocso Act after a complaint accused him of harassing a minor girl for more than six months and misbehaving with her at a farmhouse in Moinabad, about 35km southwest of Hyderabad.

The complaint was filed at Pet Basheerabad police station in Hyderabad by the girl's mother, who alleged Bageerath became close to her daughter through common friends and falsely promised marriage before becoming intimate with her.

Police have yet to summon Bageerath. Officers said the girl's statement would be recorded and she could be sent for medical examination.

Hours earlier, Bageerath approached Karimnagar II Town police — about 160km northeast of Hyderabad — accusing the girl and her parents of attempting to honey-trap him and extort money. He alleged he met the girl several months ago and was invited to family gatherings and pilgrimages as a friend.

"Believing them to be trustworthy, I accompanied them to pilgrim places. Subsequently, her parents threatened me to marry her, but I refused," Bageerath said in his complaint.

He further alleged the family demanded money and threatened to file a false criminal case accusing him of harassment and having a relationship with a minor. "Feeling scared, I gave the girl's father Rs 50,000 but they demanded Rs 5 crore and threatened me that otherwise the girl would die by suicide," complaint said.

Another lost trekking season in Kashmir Valley

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Srinagar: For nearly two decades, adventure tourism transformed Kashmir's mountains into a magnet for high-end domestic tourists and foreign visitors. Trekkers crossed alpine meadows, glacier-fed valleys and mountaineers climbed Kolahoi peak, turning the sector into one of the Valley's fastest-growing tourism industries. Much of that activity has now fallen silent.

After last year's Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor, all trekking routes across Kashmir have been closed, bringing the Valley's once-booming adventure tourism industry to a near standstill.

"Adventure tourism picked up in Kashmir in a major way over the past two decades and became an essential part of Kashmir tourism. But for the past year, it is dead," Rouf Tramboo, president of the winter games association and well-known mountaineer of the Valley, said. From his office overlooking Dal Lake, Tramboo said the govt promoted trekking in a big way in the past six years, encouraging local entrepreneurs to invest heavily in camping equipment, trekking logistics and mountaineering infrastructure. A tourism department official said the govt opened up more trekking routes in the Valley after Article 370's abrogation, taking the number to 75. Even forest huts were made available for visitors. Over time, tourists streamed in, especially from Southeast Asian countries, who were less affected by security-related travel advisories than those from Europe and the US. "Our trekking season is from June to Oct. With the prolonged closure, we have effectively lost this year," he said.

Key routes included Kashmir Great Lakes Trek – a 70km trail through alpine lakes, glacial streams, meadows and mountain passes – Kolahoi Glacier Trek, Tarsar Marsar Trek, Tosamaidan-Yusmarg Trek and Dara-Pahalgam, an offbeat high-altitude trail linking Srinagar with the lush valleys of Pahalgam. Dara-Sonamarg trail and the Kashmir-Ladakh route, through Warwan Valley in Kishtwar, also drew enthusiasts.

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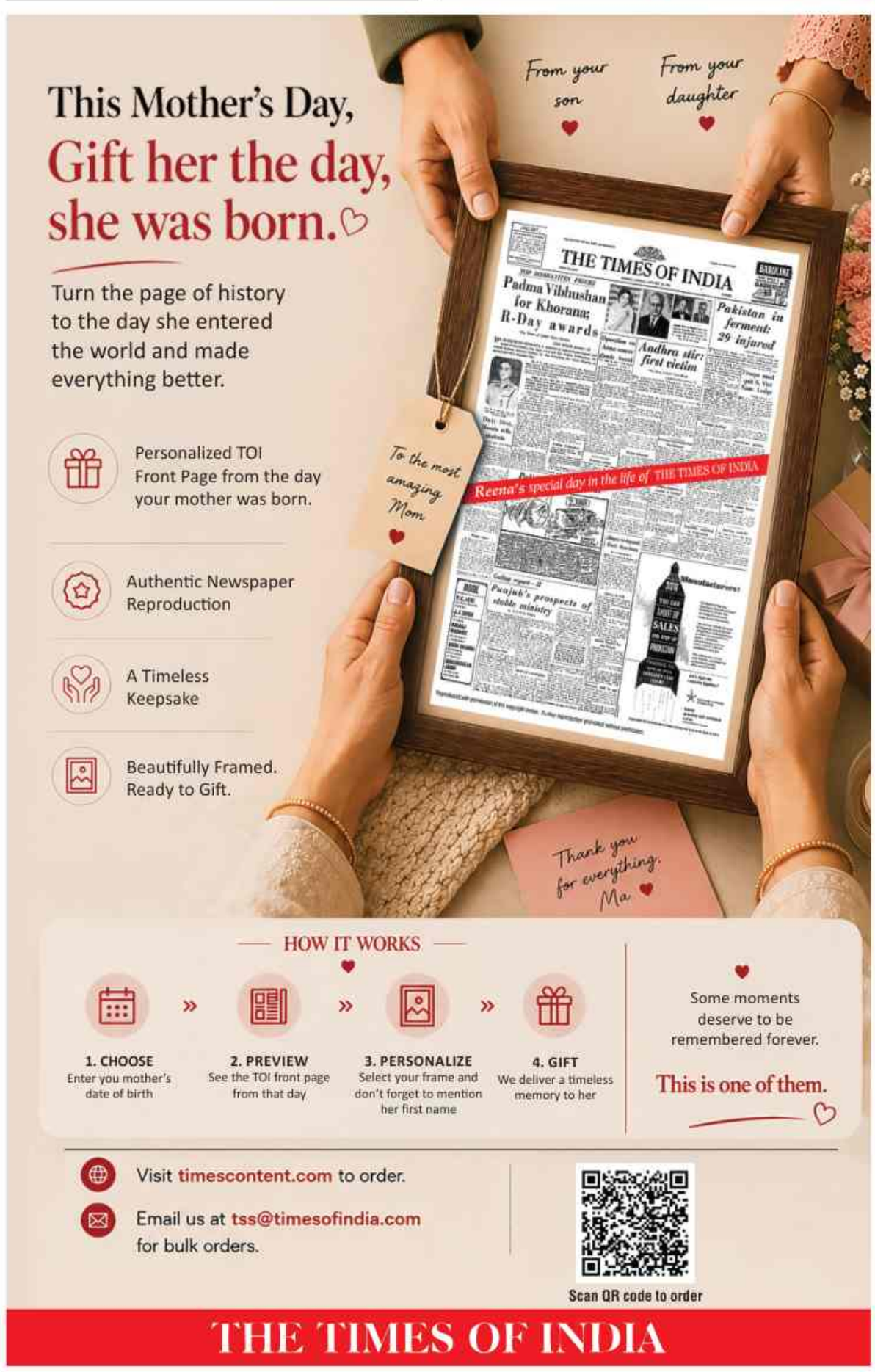
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3 BHK starts from 1.45 Cr*

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SALE 25 Acres Land Kanakapura Road in NH-209, Ideal for Tech Park, Behind Mayyas Factory, price 15Cr Per Acre all 4Sides Fenced land with 6 Borewells, Crystal Clear Title Single Owner: 9845039831

RENT/SALE 50% Dvlpr's Share Rs. 5.70 Cr, expected Rent 3 Lacs Kanakapura Mn Rd, Opp Thalght'pura Police Stn Comm Bldng, 1600 Sft to 3300 Sft Each Floor, Basement Parkig+3 Flrs. Call : 9845708104.

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KORAMANGALA BDA 6Bedroom House for Sale & Sarjapura Road Res. Converted 7.5Acres land Sale Genuine Buyers Contact: 9916763727

SALE : KORAMANGALA 3RD BLOCK Chance property North-East Corner 3250sqft & 60/90 @65K/sqft(Market price 75K/sqft).Call: 9980962856

KORAMANGALA 3rd BLOCK 3750 Sft SITE, 5BHK 12000 Sft BUILT Rs.26 Cr.4BHK 4000 Sft BUILT 3750Sft SITE Rs.18 Cr. Call-98440 70163

KORAMANGALA Prestige ACROPOLIS 5 BHK FLAT, 3BHK FLATS DNR Spring Leaf 3BHK, G.CORP Residences 3BHK. Call- 98440 70163

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60'x75' FOR SALE
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MADHAVNAGAR
GANDHINAGAR
KUMARA-PARK
PRIME PROPERTY FOR APARTMENTS / OFFICE
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BUILDERS/BUYERS BUSINESSMEN/Investors CALL: Raghav @ BANGALORE ESTATES 98450 54356 / 99800 77447

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LAND FOR SALE (With Clear Title)

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Property Location
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KUMARASWAMY LAYOUT
FOR SALE
40x60 PG
FULLY FURNISHED

SALE 40X60 PG Fully Furnished 49 Rooms Single Tenant Rent 5L. Rs 8.75cr Negotiable. Contact Shivu: 98800 04149.

SALE 40x60 BDA Plot with Indp. House High Commercial Potential, Kumaraswamy Lyt 18th Main Rs. 6.7 Cr. Earthpro 9606292211/ 9632546086

MAGADI ROAD

3BHK, Luxury High End Flats Sale, Govindarajnagar Magadi Rd, Next to Royal Enfield shrw, OC received Last 2 units only, 8088330330, www.govianu.com

MARATHAHALLI

SKANDA MOKSH BDA approved layout Sale:Premium 5bhk Villa on 8000sqft land & Two 50/90 plots @15000rs per sqft clear titles.Call-9980962856

MATHIKERE

1900SQFT, Luxury High-end Flat with swimming pool, club house, in HMT ROAD 60 Feet Road. Call: 8088330330, www.govianu.com

MG ROAD & AROUND

FOR SALE
2 BHK 1000 sq ft, furnished, modern apartment in Xavier layout , near lifestyle mall with car parking.
Rs. 1. 65 cr negotiable.

SALE : Modern 3BHK Pent house apt, 2022 sft, on 3rd flr in Viveknagar near Koramangala, 1.30 cr nego. Both E khata - 98803 47774

SADHWANIS 4BHK apartment for sale at Prestige Hermitage off MG Road, 7500sft, Price 36Cr. , Excellent Location. Contact 9845070013

SADHWANIS Prime 4500 sft residential plot for sale in Ulsoor. Excellent Location Location Location, Price 16Cr, Contact : 9845070013

NAGARBHAVI

BDA SITE FOR SALE
Vishveshwaraiah Layout 6th Block near KLE Law College
50x80 North facing
80 feet Road,
100% Vasthu
BDA Site for Sale

NAGARABHAVI BDA Complex 40x60 East facing Site 60 feet Road Excellent Location Immediate Registration. 9448432633

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FLAT for Sale 3BHK E/F 1600Sqft, Gated Society with all amenities, Close to Manyata Tech Park, 1.65Cr Call THE REAL DIMENSION: 7026500097

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4500sqft Industrial Plot for Sale at Peenya 2nd Stage, with constructed shed and power
Contact 9845860760

2SITES Immediate Sale 80ftx100ft in Hegganahalli Cross Bangalore A&E Katha Bore Well , Brick Wall Fenced Contact: 9900287834/ 9448377834

FOR SALE
PRIME COMMERCIAL LAND ON WHITEFIELD MAIN ROAD
27000 Sq.ft
North Facing
104 x 260 Feet

CLEAR TITLE - BROKERS EXCUSE

Contact: 8050587483 -9986226156

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OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE IN Dr.RAJKUMAR ROAD Fully furnished 2 flrs with imported work stations,1st Flr built-up 4500 sqft, 2nd Flr built up 6078 sqft for more details PH : 9686862553, 6360821206

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RICHMOND TOWN

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SALE: Richmond Town 1200 sft ground floor 2 BHK flat + 730 sft garden area, one car park is for sale @2.3 Cr. For details - 9844118309 / 9538899980

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Broker in Blue.

FOR SALE Exclusive homes & plots 4,000sft + Rs.12 Cr + Single point contact. 9900142491 / 97311316 41

SADHWANIS Prime 4500 sft residential plot for sale in RMV. Excellent Location Location Location. Price 20Cr. Contact 9845070013

READY-TO-MOVE-IN 2&3 BHK Flats at Nagashettyhalli, RMV 2nd Stage,OC OBTAINED Call: 63623 77418 / 94481 11614

RT NAGAR

90×95
RESIDENTIAL SITE FOR SALE
AT PRIME LOCATION
RT NAGAR

IDEAL FOR Builders/ Bungalow Corner Plot Genuine Buyers Asking Price Rs.17500/Nego. Prime property 9594985128

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SADASHIVA NAGAR

LOWER Palace Arcade Old House 20X25, E Khata Sale, R.T.NAGAR BDA 40X60 and 50X88 Site For Sale Call: 9448473358, 9980072843 Thomas

SAHAKARA NAGAR

NEW FULL-APARTMT BLDG For Sale 7.50 Crs., 13,000 sqft - 9 Apt's (2 & 4 BHK's). Built-up on 2400 sft site, Ideal for Rentl. Incom, Service Apartments Corporate Guest House. 1.5 km from. Hebbal Flyover. Near SAHAKARA NAGAR. OWNER- 98800-53505.

Sale – 40x60 Plot with Villa, East Facing, 60ft Road, Taurus Realty Ph: 98450 09512 Broker Excuse

SARJAPUR ROAD

SITE FOR SALE
3800 sqft
SUNNY BROOKS
Sarjapur Road

GATED COMMUNITY Near to Wipro corporate office E katha Contact owner : Anand-6379984034

FOR Sale 2906 sft plot in Prestige City, Sarjapur Road , High end gated community, Price rs 16000/ sft Call. whatsapp V3 group. 9945695313, 9901999995

4 bedroom boutique villa with attached baths on an East facing 3000 Sq Ft site located off Sarjapur Road. Contact: 9740037445, 9845538518

SARJAPUR Road Reliable Lifestyle 50x55, Farns Gardinea 40X60, Sunny Brooks 30X50, Green Villa 40x60, Address Makers 40X60 Sale: 74118 96696

SESHADRIPURAM

3&4BHK Luxury High-end Flats for Sale at Seshadripuram, 5min from Mantri Mall, For details Contact 8088330330, www.govianu.com

VASANTHNAGAR

SADHWANIS 3BHK Duplex Apartment for sale at Palace Road. Excellent Location Location Location. Price 5Cr. Contact 9845070013

VIDYARANYAPURA

NEAR Sambram College Best county2, DC Conversion A/E Kata, 40x60 wf, 30x40, 37.5x40 wf BBMP B/E K, Amba Bhavani Temple Back Side: 82968 95858

VIDYARANYAPURA Independent 60'x40' 4 BHK Duplex BEL- 2nd Blk S/F -Prime Location 16500/- sq.ft Contact:9844264852

40' x 60', North facing, BBMP A/E Khatha, Clear Title, Rs. 15200/- Per Sft. Brokers Excuse Ct. 8296359666

VIJAYA NAGAR

SITE FOR SALE
60x90
RPC Layout
VIJAYNAGAR

PRIME LOCATION Site 60x90 West Facing WOC Road RPC Layout Only Genuine Buyers 6363250343/ 9845038343

SALE North East corner borewell 30x40 ft Binny layout Chandra Layout Blore 30000 Rs/sqft NO BROKER 9945479966

VISVESWARAIAH LAYOUT

FOR SALE
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Premium Site @
VISHVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT
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Land for sale
Block 5, Koramangala
- Area: 6,000 sq ft (557 sq m)
- Owned by a reputed MNC
- Suitable for residential use
- Last day to submit bid: Thursday, May 28, 2026

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Faaiz 98868 98441
JLL

AVAILABLE/WANTED BDA Sites in Vishveshwaraiah Layout 50x80, 40X60, 30X40, 20X30 Genuine Buyers and Sellers. CONTACT: 97433 81719

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WHITEFIELD...CLOSE to HopeFarm circle West facing, G Floor 1175 sqft Flat for sale a @85 lacs.Pls Call 9845145160 Easthood properties

WHITEFIELD...CLOSE to HopeFarm circle West facing, G Floor 1175 sqft Flat for sale a @85 lacs.Pls Call 9845145160 Easthood properties

2 Acres Converted Land for Sale Prime location, Suitable for multiple purposes.Only Interested buyers may contact: 9886009804, 94483 88534

COMMERCIAL space built to suit-for Rent in Whitefield. 20000sft land with 80ft rd frontage. Suited for premium establishments. Call:9900181309

PRESTIGE Lake Side Habitate 2.5BHK 1346sft Pool View Higher Flr 2Cr. 2BHK 1.73Cr. 3BHK 1655sft 2.44 Cr. Settler 98802 25333 / 9845035333

WHITEFIELD For sale 1 acre residential converted land . Clear titles, excellent location behind Soukya . Contact 9901773368

YELAHANKA

60*90
COMMERCIAL
SITE

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HILLTOP Farmland., BALI THEME Buy 20 Cents (8720 sft) on 4000' Hill Top amidst forest Greenery., near Denkanikottai @ 555/sft Cal: 9176054384 & visit

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FOR SALE

BANGALORE

COMMERCIAL Land for Sale Opp to Kengere Metro Station Extent 35000 SqFt A Khata E Khata Available Brokers Excuse Contact 9880459141

GRAMATHANA site for sale Rs.4999 per sft, Measuring 38 'x 40' facing East near chimney hills, Thammenahalli, Bangalore Contact 9535516275

60 X 40 Corner site vaccant available for sale. Site No 32 1st cross ,Vijaya bank Enclave, Near Sir M Visvesvaraya rd Contact : 9448290333 Ramesh.

OUTSIDE BANGALORE

CHIKMAGALUR

DUPLEX Villa with assured rental 1lakh per month for Sale part of 5 Star upcoming resort in Chikamagalur. Call 8088330330

MYSORE

3BHK High-end Luxury Flats, Govianu Gurikar Luxuria - Mysore, Zoo road, opposite to Gandhi park, Ready to occupy. 8088330330, www.govianu.com

TUMKUR

A) 15000SQFT TUDA approved site, Jaganathpura Tumkur B) 1200 SQFT TUDA site Belagumba Tumkur, 200mtrs from NH4, 8088330330

PROPERTY ANCILLARIES

COMMERCIAL PREMISES

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Built to Suit

3000-7000 SQFT Ground Floor Available on HOSA Road, Suit. for Garments / Ecom, etc. CONTACT : 9844400002 / 9980159456

COMMERCIAL SITE FOR SALE 30X100 SQ FT on Bangalore- Mysore Road near Pantarapalya Metro Station. For details Contact: 98446 44055

RENTAL INCOME PROPERTY FOR SALE

MISSION ROAD, Total 4000sft. Ground and Basement. Corner Excellent Property, 3 Sides Road, Current Rental Income Rs. 4.65 Lac p.m. CONTACT : 7397741830

CBSE Curriculum
School building
30,000sft
(Land 2 Acres)
for Sale

KANAKAPURA SOUTH Bengaluru Immediate Take Over, With students Contact 9986164245/ 9916367431

COMMERCIAL retail space sale- Sahakar nagar, tenant paying 2.5L per flr, 2500 sqft luxury one floor one unit 100% flr office space: 8088330330

OFFICE space for Rent measuring 1050 sq.ft on New BEL Rd Bangalore Contact: 9380895993

More TIMES interact ads on subsequent pages...

PRIME PROPERTY

Premium 2 BHK flat for sale @ Upper Malleshwaram.

Newly constructed apartment with only 4 exclusive units in the entire building North-facing unit / 1250 sq. ft. BUA | 1050 sq. ft. Carpet Area / Spacious 2 BHK with Balcony & Utility Area / 24-7 Power Backup/ Lift & Security / 1 Covered Car Park.

Investment Advantage: Currently can fetch up to 50k rent per month. Great investment. Price: ₹24K/sft (Slightly Negotiable for serious buyers) / Limited opportunity - Only 1 flat available! NO BROKERS PLEASE.

Contact: Vikram - 82174 62406

BDA SITE FOR SALE

No. 90, Opp. Subramanya Aracade, Jayanagar East End (BTM 1st Stage) North facing
40×60, 60 ft. Road, Adjacent to JALA BHAVAN, Between Bannerghatta Road to Jayanagar East End Road, Approx 100 mtr. to Bannerghatta Main Road.

Genuine Buyers Call:
Muralidhar: 98453 01599

WANTED

We are looking to purchase a commercial building (maximum 12 years old) in a prime retail area, similar to the 100 Feet Road KFC signal location. Preferred areas include Indiranagar, Koramangala, and HSR Layout.
Please contact RS&EK Groups at +91 96864 76338.

After losing 2 sons, jawan's wife donates liver to save third child

The Sacrifice Shines Through Grief On Mother's Day

Anuja.Jaiswal
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: After losing her two elder sons to a rare genetic disorder, the wife of an Army personnel from Jammu and Kashmir donated a part of her liver to save her youngest child, an eight-year-old boy suffering from severe liver failure due to Wilson's disease. The story of the mother's sacrifice was shared by doctors ahead of Mother's Day.

Badal Choudhary, a Class 4 student, was suffering from Wilson's disease, a rare inherited disorder in which excessive copper builds up in the body, severely damaging organs such as the liver and brain if left untreated.

Doctors performed the complex liver transplant surgery in December 2025, a procedure that lasted nearly 12 to 13 hours. A small portion of the mother's liver was transplanted into the child

Doctors at Marengo Asia Hospitals, Faridabad, said the child was brought to the hospital in critical condition after treatment elsewhere failed to improve his health. His jaundice had become extremely severe and his abdomen was filled with infected fluid. Dr Punit Singla, program clinical director and head of liver transplant and HPB Surgery at the hospital, said the child's jaundice had become extremely severe and blood tests showed his liver was failing, making an immediate liver transplant necessary. "The family had already lost two sons to the same disease and was devastated seeing their third child battling for life," he said.

With no time to lose, the child's 40-year-old mother, Renu Choudhary, volunteered to donate a portion of her liver after being found medically fit for transplant.

Doctors performed the complex liver transplant surgery in December 2025, a procedure that lasted nearly 12 to 13 hours. A small portion of the mother's liver was transplanted into the child.

Both mother and son recovered successfully after the surgery and the child was discharged three weeks later. Doctors said Badal is now healthy and living a normal life. Wilson's disease is considered rare and is often difficult to diagnose in the early stages because symptoms can mimic other liver and neurological disorders. Experts say timely diagnosis and treatment are critical to prevent irreversible organ damage.

Dr Navneet Singh Chhabra, facility director at the hospital, said the successful transplant reflected advances in liver care and transplant medicine that can help save critically ill children when intervention is done in time.

TN Cong MLAs land in Hyd to escape poaching bids

Roushan.Ali@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: Five Tamil Nadu Congress MLAs landed in Hyderabad on Friday night to avoid alleged poaching by political parties. However, the uncertainty surrounding govt formation in Tamil Nadu ended within 24 hours, with TN governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar appointing C Joseph Vijay as chief minister.

The MLAs are now likely to fly back to Chennai by early Sunday, a senior functionary of Congress' Telangana unit told **TOI**. The decision to move the MLAs to Hyderabad was authorised by the Congress high command in New Delhi. Interestingly, over 100 Congress and Janata Dal (Secular) MLAs from Karnataka were moved to star hotels in Hyderabad in 2018 to prevent poaching by rival parties. They returned on the day of the floor test in Karnataka assembly.

Pro-Satheesan marches: Cong issues show-cause notice

IANS

PARTY RIFT: The party has issued show-cause notices to around 15 functionaries, seeking explanations for allegedly defying the high command's directives

T'puram: Congress leadership in Kerala has initiated disciplinary proceedings against party members who organised public demonstrations in support of V D Satheesan, amid escalating tensions over the issue of chief ministership.

The party has issued show-cause notices to around 15 functionaries, including KPCC member Chempazhanthy Anil and INTUC Thiruvananthapuram district president V R Prathapan, seeking explanations for allegedly defying the high command's directives. The disciplinary action follows a public show of strength in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday by those backing Satheesan. The notice warned that action would be initiated if the explanations are found unsatisfactory.

KPCC president Sunny Joseph is also learnt to have submitted a report to AICC general secretary Deepa Dasmunshi, highlighting what the party described as serious indiscipline by a section of functionaries. The party leadership has reportedly taken serious note of an incident in which a flex board carrying the image of the late ex-CM Oommen Chandy was damaged during the protest march held in the state capital. Despite the disciplinary action, the protest marches backing Satheesan continued across the state even on Saturday.

Kerala man held for sexually assaulting 6-yr-old girl on train

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

T'puram: Railway police Saturday arrested a 40-year-old man for sexually assaulting a six-year-old girl travelling in the general compartment of Palaruvi Express from Kerala to Tamil Nadu. The accused, Sanish, son of Abdul Azeez from Ayathil in Kollam, was produced before a magistrate and remanded in judicial custody for 14 days.

The girl's family had visited Edathua Church and boarded the train on Thursday in Thiruvalla for the return journey. The girl was sleeping next to her grandfather when Sanish took her away and assaulted her. A fellow passenger witnessed the crime and alerted railway police. A team from Punalur railway police station boarded the train and took Sanish into custody.

A fellow passenger witnessed the crime and alerted railway police. A team from Punalur railway police station boarded the train and took Sanish into custody

Government of Karnataka
Superintendent of Police, Coastal Security Police and Member Secretary to Special Recruitment Committee for Technical Post

Recruitment of Technical Staff on contract basis.

The Police Department is recruiting the following technical posts for Coastal Security Police, Udupi on contract basis for a period of 5 years or age of 60 years, whichever is earliest. Details are as below.

1. **Boat Captain -02 Post** (Equivalent to Police Sub Inspector Grade)
2. **Assistant Boat Captain -10 Post** (Equivalent to Asst. Police Sub Inspector Grade)
3. **Motor Launch Mechanic -02 Post** (Equivalent to Asst. Police Sub Inspector Grade)
4. **Engine Driver -12 Post** (Equivalent to Police Head Constable Grade)
5. **Khalasi -04 Post** (Equivalent to Police Constable Grade)
Total -30 Post.

Eligibility Criteria:-

• Candidates who are from retired Navy/Coast Guard and B.S.F Water Wing are eligible to apply for the above mentioned posts. Last date to submit the application is 06-06-2026 at 04.30 p.m. For further details, like age, educational qualification, experience terms and condition may be ascertained from the Member Secretary and Superintendent of Police, Coastal Security Police, Bundar Road Malpe Udupi 576108 or from official website **ksp.karnataka.gov.in.**
Ph No: 0820-2538120, 2538150, Fax No.: 2538100

Superintendent of Police,
Coastal Security Police, Udupi &
Member Secretary to Special
Recruitment Committee for Technical Posts

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, देवघर
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES DEOGHAR
(स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन राष्ट्रीय महत्व का संस्थान)
(An Institution of National Importance under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare)
भारत सरकार/Government of India
Website-www.aiimsdeoghar.edu.in

No.-AIIMS/DEO/RECT.CELL/2026-27/206 Date- 29.04.2026

9th Rolling Phase 1 Faculty Recruitment Advertisement

Advt. No.:- AIIMS/DEO/RECT.CELL/2026-27/205/Phase 1, Dated: 29.04.2026

Online applications are invited for the medical faculty posts on **direct recruitment/ deputation** basis in various departments at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Deoghar, Jharkhand.

Cut-off date for receiving soft copy of application is **28.05.2026**.

For further information candidates are requested to visit the website of institute- **www.aiimsdeoghar.edu.in** on regular basis.

Recruitment Cell
AIIMS Deoghar

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, गोरखपुर
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Gorakhpur
(स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय भारत सरकार द्वारा स्थापित एक स्वायत्त निकाय)
(An autonomous organization under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)

Last date of online Receipt of Application: 08/06/2026 **Dated: 09/05/2026**

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

Professor/Additional Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor

Offline applications from eligible Indian citizens/other citizens as permissible under the applicable Act/Rules are invited to fill up following faculty posts in All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh):

Sr. No	Subject	Professor	Additional Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor
1.	Anaesthesia	01 (OBC)	01 (OBC)	-	02 (01-SC, 01-OBC)
2.	Biochemistry	01 (ST)	-	-	-
3.	Cardiology	01 (UR)	-	01 (OBC)	-
4.	Cardiothoracic Surgery	-	-	02 (UR)	01 (SC)
5.	Dermatology	-	01 (OBC)	-	01 (OBC)
6.	ENT	01 (SC)	01 (SC)	01 (ST)	-
7.	Forensic Medicine and Toxicology	01 (OBC)	-	-	-
8.	Gastroenterology (Medical)	01 (EWS)	-	02 (01-OBC, 01-UR)	01 (OBC)
9.	General Medicine	01 (UR)	-	02 (01-UR, 01-SC)	04 (03-EWS, 01-OBC)
10.	General Surgery	01 (01-SC)	-	-	-
11.	Hospital Administration	01 (UR)	-	02 (01-OBC, 01-UR)	-
12.	Medical Oncology	-	-	-	01 (OBC)
13.	Microbiology	01 (ST)	01 (OBC)	-	-
14.	Neonatology	-	-	-	01 (ST)
15.	Nephrology	-	01 (UR)	02 (01-SC, 01-EWS)	01 (UR)
16.	Neurology	-	-	02 (01-OBC, 01-UR)	01 (SC)
17.	Neurosurgery	-	-	01 (01-ST)	-
18.	Nuclear Medicine	01 (OBC)	01 (OBC)	01 (UR)	01 (OBC)
19.	Obstetrics and Gynaecology	-	-	01 (01-ST)	-
20.	Ophthalmology	01 (EWS)	01 (UR)	-	-
21.	Orthopaedics	-	-	01 (UR)	-
22.	Paediatrics	-	01 (OBC)	-	-
23.	Pathology	01 (SC)	01 (SC)	-	-
24.	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	01 (UR)	-	-	-
25.	Physiology	-	-	01 (OBC)	-
26.	Psychiatry	01 (OBC)	01 (UR)	-	-
27.	Pulmonary Medicine	-	-	01 (SC)	01 (UR)
28.	Radiology	-	01 (OBC)	02 (01-UR, 01-OBC)	04 (02-OBC, 01-SC, 01-ST)
29.	Radiotherapy	01 (SC)	01 (UR)	01 (UR)	-
30.	Surgical Gastroenterology	-	-	02 (01-ST, 01-EWS)	01 (OBC)
31.	Surgical Oncology	-	-	-	01 (UR)
32.	Transfusion Medicine and Blood Bank	01 (OBC)	-	01 (UR)	01 (OBC)
33.	Trauma and Emergency Medicine	-	-	-	03 (01-UR, 01-SC,01-ST)
34.	Urology	01 (EWS)	-	02 (01-UR, 01-SC)	-
Total		**18**	**12**	**28**	**25**
Grand Total		**83**			

Note: 7 Seats (1-Professor, 1- Additional Professor, 2- Associate Professor & 3- Assistant Professor) are Horizontally reserved for PwBD Candidates.

The above vacancies are provisional and subject to variation. The Executive Director, AIIMS, Gorakhpur reserves the right to change the number of the vacancies including reserved vacancies as per the Govt. of India rules/ circulars. **Application form along with department wise details of seats, reservation, terms and conditions etc. of the various posts are available on institute's website www.aiimsgorakhpur.edu.in**

All the applicants are advised to check AIIMS, Gorakhpur website www.aiimsgorakhpur.edu.in on regular basis for any further updates.

SD/-
Executive Director
AIIMS, Gorakhpur

U.T. OF LAKSHADWEEP
LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
56/2366 (Old No. 27/1038 B), Panampilly Nagar, Kochi - 682 036
Tel No. 0484 2323448 / 2323458
E-Mail: ldcladm2016@gmail.com Website: lakshadweep.gov.in

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Lakshadweep Development Corporation Ltd. is inviting applications for one post of **Chief Engineer (Civil) on deputation basis from Central / State Governments and PSUs engaged in port and marine infrastructure operations,** from eligible candidates with Degree or equivalent in Civil or Mechanical Engineering from a recognized University / Institution, serving as Chief Engineer or in a post one level below in the said organization and having 15 years experience in civil or mechanical engineering works including at least 10 years experience in the field of Harbour Engineering, Planning or Construction of harbours or maintenance and operation of different kinds of port machineries.

Application with self attested copies of all certificates should reach the above address on or before 01.06.2026. Preference will be given to eligible and qualified candidates from Lakshadweep, if available.

Please visit our Website: **lakshadweep.gov.in** for details.

08.05.2026 **Sd/- General Manager**

FORM A- PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
(Regulation 14 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Voluntary Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2017)
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF
INDIAN RAILWAY STATIONS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A JV of Rail Land Development Authority, IRCON & RITES)

1.	Name of Corporate Person	**INDIAN RAILWAY STATIONS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (A JV of Rail Land Development Authority, IRCON & RITES)**
2.	Date of Incorporation of Corporate Person	12.04.2012
3.	Authority under which Corporate Person is Incorporated / Registered	Registrar of Companies, Delhi II
4.	Corporate Identity Number / ~~Limited Liability Identity Number~~ of Corporate Person	U45204DL2012GOI234292
5.	Address of the Registered Office and Principal Office (if any) of Corporate Person	**Registered Office:** 7th floor, Tower 1, Konnectus building Bhavbhuti Marg, Central Delhi, New Delhi - 110002
6.	Liquidation Commencement Date of Corporate Person	05th May, 2026
7.	Name, Address, Email Address, Telephone Number and the Registration Number of the Liquidator	Monika Agarwal **IBBI Registration Number:** IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P01137/2018-19/11866 **Address:** 205, Chopra Complex, 8, Preet Vihar, Community Centre, New Delhi-110092 **Telephone number:** +91-9873924087 **Email Address (process specific):** liquidator.irsdc@gmail.com **Email Address (registered with IBBI):** cacsmonika.agarwal@gmail.com
8.	Last Date for Submission of Claims	04th June, 2026

Notice is hereby given that **INDIAN RAILWAY STATIONS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED** (A JV of Rail Land Development Authority, IRCON & RITES) has commenced its voluntary liquidation on 05th May, 2026.

The stakeholders of **INDIAN RAILWAY STATIONS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED** (A JV of Rail Land Development Authority, IRCON & RITES) are hereby called upon to submit a proof of their claims, on or before 04th June, 2026, to the Liquidator at the address mentioned against item 7.

The financial creditors shall submit their proof of claims by electronic means only. All other stakeholders may submit the proof of claims in person, by post or by electronic means.

Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.

CA Monika Agarwal
Liquidator in the matter of
Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (In Voluntary Liquidation)
(A JV of Rail Land Development Authority, IRCON & RITES)
IBBI Registration No.:IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P01137/2018-19/11866
AFA valid upto: 30.06.2027
IBBI Registered Address: 205, Chopra Complex, 8, Preet Vihar, Community Centre, New Delhi
liquidator.irsdc@gmail.com (process specific)
cacsmonika.agarwal@gmail.com (registered with IBBI)
Mob. No. 9873924087

Date: 10.05.2026
Place: New Delhi

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Starting date of online application : **08th May 2026**

Last date of submission of online application : **25th May 2026**

Date of written test and interview : **28th - 29th May 2026**

Date of publication of result : **05th June 2026**

Date of provisional registration and commencement of classes : **1st July 2026**

For further details, please visit : **https://www.iiit-bh.ac.in/Admission/ph-d/**

DIRECTOR

AT : Gothapatna, PO : Malipada, Bhubaneswar - 751003, Odisha, India, Web : www.iiit-bh.ac.in

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Registrar (Acting)

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National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi
Ministry of Education, Government of India, MYSURU - 570006
Email: principal@riemysore.ac.in, website: www.riemysore.ac.in

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

The Regional Institute of Education, Mysuru will conduct Walk-in-Interview for the following posts purely on Contractual Basis for the Academic Session 2026-27.

Sl. No.	Name of the Posts	Date of Interview
1	Professor (Physics), Assistant Professor (Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, Hindi & Telugu)	20.05.2026
2	Assistant Professor (English, Pedagogy of English, Pedagogy of Mathematics, Pedagogy of Physical Science (Physics/Chemistry), Education(DEE), Agriculture/ Animal Husbandry)	21.05.2026
3	Lab Assistant (Computer Science, Chemistry, Zoology & Psychology), Semi-Professional Assistant (Library), Senior Library Attendant & TGT (Special Educator)	22.05.2026
4	PGT (Accountancy, Guidance & Counselling and Economics), Primary Teacher, Pre-Primary/ Nursery Teacher, Vocational Teacher (Retail & IT-ITes)	25.05.2026
5	WET (Computer Science, Home Science, Drawing and Painting, Wood Work, Arts & Crafts, Metal Work, Typewriting & Short Hand)	26.05.2026
6	TGT (Mathematics, Science, Kannada, Social Science, Sanskrit, Physical Education, Hindi & English)	28.05.2026
7	Producer Gr. I, Sound Recordist, Technician Gr. I & Gr. II, Storekeeper Gr. I & Gr. II, Caretaker and Security Supervisor.	29.05.2026

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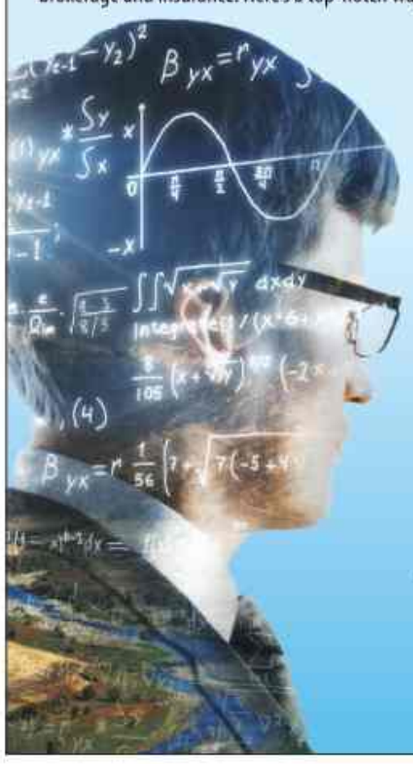

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AAP alleges political vendetta after repeated ED raids in Punjab

▶ Continued from page 1

Arora holds charge of industries and commerce, power and local govt.

Congress, BJP and Shiromani Akali Dal attacked AAP govt over corruption allegations. AAP chief **Arvind Kejriwal** accused BJP of using central agencies for political purposes and alleged that repeated ED action in Punjab was aimed at intimidating the state leadership. Punjab BJP president Sunil Jakhar accused the Mann govt of shielding corruption.

Arora was a Rajya Sabha MP when AAP fielded him in the Ludhiana West bypoll in June 2025.

Arora's arrest followed an ED search of his official residence in Sector 2, Chandigarh, which began early Saturday morning and ended around 5.10pm, when the minister was whisked away to New Delhi. This is the third time in a year that Arora has faced ED action; the first time was when he was Rajya Sabha MP.

ED has been active in Punjab for well over a month, during which time seven AAP Rajya Sabha MPs switched to BJP, including two who had been searched by the agency.

Sources said ED searched other addresses in Delhi, Gurgaon and Chandigarh, including the premises of Hampton Sky Realty Ltd, promoted by Arora's family. The company issued a statement that it "reposes complete faith in its established facts, in the legal and constitutional framework of the country, and in the wisdom of the Hon'ble Judiciary". It said when the "supplier-side" fraud came to its knowledge, "the company itself approached the police as the complainant" by lodging an FIR (on May 17, 2025) at a Ludhiana police station and that the company itself was a "victim". It said there was no "current loss to the govt exchequer" on account of its transactions.

Sources said the latest probe involves a Rs 100 crore "fake" GST purchase of mobile phones and exports to "round-trip" alleged illegitimate funds from Dubai to India.

Outdated Census data skews NCRB crime rates

▶ Continued from pg 1

A mathematical glitch ensures that crime rates in large Indian cities tend to fall sharply in a Census year. Here's why: NCRB uses the same city population until the next Census because official city-wise projections are not available. A constant divisor makes the rate look progressively inflated. When the Census finally updates population, the rate can fall dramatically even if the actual number of crimes has not fallen.

Similar issues appear in other NCRB categories. Crime rates against children, and crimes committed by juveniles, use India's under-18 population from the 2011 Census — 44.4 crore. But with fertility rates falling, UN estimates suggest the under-18 population is now around 43.3 crore. That means juvenile crime rates and crimes against children may be slightly understated in NCRB's calculations.

The reverse may be true for senior citizens. NCRB uses the 2011 senior citizen population — 10.4 crore people aged 60 or above. But India is ageing, and UN estimates put the 60-plus population in 2024 at 15.7 crore. If so, NCRB may be substantially overstating the rate of crime against senior citizens.

The lesson: The rate depends on the population used in the denominator. In Census years, that denominator changes — and with it, the crime rate can appear to improve overnight.

Multiple intermediary companies share same address, finds probe

▶ Continued from page 1

Investigators also found that multiple intermediary companies were allegedly operating from the same address.

The agency said it had registered seven cases against the Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group in recent months based on complaints filed by various public sector banks and LIC in connection with alleged frauds involving thousands of crores of rupees. The total alleged loss in these cases is Rs 27,337 crore, according to CBI.

Two senior executives of Reliance Communications D Vishwanath, joint president, and Anil Kalya, vice president were arrested on April 20 in connection with the investigation. Both are currently in judicial custody. The CBI said the investigation into the cases is being monitored by the Supreme Court.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Nitin Kulkarni S/o Pramod Sripadrao Kulkarni, R/o 301, Sri Sai Bliss, 2nd Cross, Central Excise Layout, Sanjaynagar, Bengaluru-560094 have changed my name to Nitin Pramod Kulkarni for all purposes vide affidavit dated 04-05-2026 sworn before Notary Chandrakala, Bengaluru.

I, Dhanya , R/o at Indigo 1301, H M World City, Raghavanapalya, Jp Nagar 8th phase,Bangalore South. Konanakunte, Bengaluru-62 have changed my name to DHANYA MAIRPADY vide affidavit dt 30/04/2026 sworn before notary J. Anand Kumar Bangalore

I, Siddharth Vijay Sai S/o Vijayasai Cheruvilappil Payyanadan, R/o 139/3, Flat No 303, Aditya Apartments, Sharadamma Layout, Domlur, Bengaluru have changed my name from Siddharth V Sai to Siddharth Vijay Sai for all future purposes

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VCK will extend outside support to Vijay govt, continue in DMK alliance

'Bid To Prevent Central Rule, Not Validation Of Ideology'

Shanmughasundaram.J
@timesofindia.com

TVK chief Vijay meets Tamil Nadu governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar to stake claim to form govt, in Chennai on Saturday

Chennai: VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan threw, on Saturday, his party's weight behind actor-politician Vijay's govt, calling it "unconditional support" aimed at ensuring political stability and preventing President's rule in Tamil Nadu.

"We are extending support to TVK for two reasons. VCK should not be a factor hindering Vijay from becoming CM, and Tamil Nadu should not come under President's rule," Thirumavalavan said after handing over a support letter to TVK general secretary Aadhav Arjuna at VCK headquarters in Chennai.

VCK also said it would continue in the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance, underlining a delicate balancing act by Thirumavalavan, once among Vijay's sharpest campaign critics. Thirumavalavan also disclosed he had informed DMK chief MK Stalin before extending support. "He appreciated the decision. From the beginning, he made it clear he would not be an obstacle to Vijay becoming CM," he said. Formed in Feb 2024, TVK made a dramatic electoral debut and emerged as a central force in Tamil Nadu's fractured mandate, pushing state politics into coalition arithmetic after decades of Dravidian bipolarity. VCK's decision gives Vijay crucial breathing room as TVK attempts to convert electoral momentum into stable governance in a state entering unfamiliar coalition terrain.

"While DMK worked for our candidates' victories, VCK brass has made a calculated, albeit difficult, decision to provide outside support while strictly opting out of cabinet," VCK general secretary D Ravikumar said. Ravikumar rejected criticism over delay in decision-making. "A choice with such a long-lasting impact on the state's political landscape required deliberate thought," he said. Party functionaries said strong voices within VCK favoured joining the govt, but Thirumavalavan resisted, arguing cabinet berths should not come at the cost of political credibility. "For the sake of a cabinet berth, we should not lose credibility built over 30 years of hard work," a senior member quoted him as saying.

What if Vijay had joined in 2009, Cong wonders

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: As TVK chief Vijay moves to govern Tamil Nadu after upending the state's politics in the assembly polls, questions are being asked if Congress' fortunes in the state would have taken a giant leap had the superstar's interaction with Rahul Gandhi during UPA's tenure materialised into something concrete.

The questions have acquired salience after the surfacing of an old photograph of Vijay with then NSUI office-bearers — now MP Hibi Eden, AICC spokesperson Ragini Nayak, AICC secretary Gopinath Palaniyappan and Ashok Basoya. Vijay had then met Rahul, who, fresh from Congress' victory in the 2009 Lok Sabha elections, was aiming at a generational makeover of the party.

By his own admission in a viral video, Vijay had taken a day off from his shoot schedule to meet Rahul with his father. He was thrilled by the interaction but denied any move to join Congress.

Some in Congress say Vijay was asked by Rahul to go through the drill of contesting Youth Congress elections, which the former was reluctant to do. The lingering regret in Congress ranks seems to be that if Vijay had joined the party, Congress could have been at the core of Tamil Nadu politics today.

If not then, now. The partnership is happening 17 years later. Since their first meeting, Rahul and Vijay have been in touch — the reason there was such a push to ally with TVK in the run-up to state polls, which was nixed by Congress leadership and the state unit.

But after the polls threw up a hung assembly and DMK was left without the possibility of forming govt, Congress decided to join hands with TVK. Congress' outreach with CPM, CPI and VCK is said to have played a role in the three parties following suit.

PM's tribute to 97-year-old Sangh veteran steals show

Modi with Sangh veteran Makhanlal Sarkar at the Brigade, Saturday

Tamaghna Banerjee & Roshan Gupta | TNN

Kolkata/Siliguri: For decades, Makhanlal Sarkar would leave his modest home in Siliguri's Surya Sen Park Colony at the crack of dawn in *khadi* shorts, RSS belt and boots for organisational work.

At 97, the lifelong swayamsevak and grassroots political worker received on Saturday the "recognition of a lifetime" — an honour from PM Narendra Modi. Sarkar, once an aide to Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee, said so after the PM touched his feet and hugged him at the oath-taking ceremony of Suvendu Adhikari as Bengal CM at Kolkata's Brigade Parade Ground. "Sarkar had accompanied Mookerjee during his last trip (to Kashmir)," BJP state president Samik Bhattacharya said. He added the veteran was arrested in Kashmir for singing patriotic songs. "He had never bowed down before the atrocities of the Congress govt."

Sarkar has been a Sangh member since age 16. After BJP was formed in 1980, he served as coordinator for north Bengal, including Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri. In 1984, when BJP's presence in the region was still weak, he became district secretary with only a handful of supporters. He is credited with bringing nearly 10,000 members to the party within a year during its initial period of expansion.

Recalling the 1990 Rath Yatra when LK Advani was arrested in Bihar's Samastipur, Sarkar said attempts were made to take him into custody, too. "I was in Bihar's Purnea, near the Bengal border, to welcome Advaniji. Cops threatened to arrest me. When I showed them permission from then CM Jyoti Basu to host the Rath Yatra in the state, they released me," Sarkar said.

Syama Prasad's family takes pride 'beyond politics'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Pride and happiness defined the day for the kin of Syama Prasad Mookerjee as PM Narendra Modi and all other senior BJP leaders recalled his sacrifices and paid rich tributes to the founder of Bharatiya Jan Sangh.

After the swearing-in ceremony, newly elected CM Suvendu Adhikari visited Mukherjee's home and paid tribute to the party icon.

For Mookerjee's granddaughter Sarmeela Marquis, it was a great day as the name of her "Dadu" echoed through the voices of all politicians on Saturday. "To keep his memory alive, the newly elected govt must work to turn his dreams into reality," she said.

Justice Chittatosh Mookerjee, former chief justice of Bombay high court and nephew of Syama Prasad, said: "It's good to see Mejka's (my uncle's) photograph on the front page of newspapers decades after his death in a Srinagar jail in 1953. His mother Jogmaya Devi had appealed to the then PM Jawaharlal Nehru for an independent inquiry, but it was not accepted."

'Backing TVK govt only to prevent Prez Rule'

▸ Continued from page 1

Congress, CPI and CPM had already backed TVK, taking its tally from 107 to 116 by Friday night. With VCK and IUML joining in, the tally rose to 120. TVK functionary Aadhav Arjuna received VCK's support letter from Thol Thirumavalavan on Saturday evening following uncertainty through the day. IUML national president Khader Mohideen handed over his party's letter to TVK's K A Sengottaiyan and Arunraj.

In his letter to the governor, Thirumavalavan said, "This support is being extended in the interest of ensuring stable and democratic governance for people of Tamil Nadu." Later, Thirumavalavan told reporters that VCK remained part of the DMK-led alliance and was backing the TVK govt only to prevent President's Rule. He said the decision was conveyed to DMK chief M K Stalin, who responded positively.

TVK earlier made two unsuccessful attempts to secure IUML's support, with the party initially refusing because of its long-standing ties with DMK. A final push on Saturday brought IUML on board.

The party's high-level committee resolved that helping establish a democratic govt is a vital democratic duty to prevent political instability in the state. "The expectations of the general public, and particularly the Muslim community, are for the establishment of a democratic govt. This decision is taken to preserve the traditions of Tamil Nadu and avoid the unwelcome prospect of President's Rule," the party said.

IUML emphasised that it has been a long-standing partner of DMK and would continue its alliance with the DMK-led bloc.

'In earlier govt, efficient officers had to leave state for central deputation'

▸ Continued from page 1

Adhikari said, "In earlier govt, efficient and impartial officers were not given any work and had to leave state for central deputation" The order came within hours of Adhikari's swearing-in, signalling the new BJP govt's intent to lean on bureaucrats seen as efficient and politically neutral during fiercely fought assembly polls. The notification said Gupta's appointment was made "in interest of public service" and would remain effective until further orders.

A PhD from IIT Kharagpur and a 1990-batch IAS officer of Bengal cadre, Gupta retired from active service in May 2025. He earlier served as DM of Jalpaiguri and Burdwan and later held senior positions in West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation between 2007 and 2011, a turbulent phase marked by Tata Motors' exit from Singur.

He was brought in by EC as special roll observer during the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise and later elevated as special observer for Bengal assembly elections after the poll panel expressed satisfaction over his performance.

Election officials and administrative circles credited strict EC monitoring and coordination between Bengal CEO Manoj Kumar Agarwal and Gupta for smooth conduct of polling. Sources said Adhikari held extensive discussions with Gupta after completion of the electoral process and personally offered him the advisory role. The appointment underlines BJP govt's bid to recast Bengal's bureaucracy after storming one of India's most fiercely contested political citadels.

Govt shifts 62 officers

Bengal govt removed Saturday 16 officers posted in CM's office and directed them to report to personnel and administrative reforms department. Govt also ordered 46 officers attached to ministers as private secretaries or OSDs to report to PAR department. TNN

I bow to Bengal's Jana Shakti: Modi

▸ Continued from page 1

Modi arrived at Maidan in an open vehicle alongside Adhikari and state BJP president Samik Bhattacharya as chants of "Modi, Modi" rolled across Brigade.

Present on the dais to witness the historic event were Union home minister Amit Shah, defence minister Rajnath Singh, party national president Nitin Nabin, his predecessor JP Nadda, transport minister Nitin Gadkari, 21 CMs of NDA-governed states and their deputies, besides former ministers like Smriti Irani and veteran actor Mithun Chakraborty.

After the oath ceremony, a visibly emotional PM knelt before the crowd and touched his forehead to the ground.

"I bow to West Bengal's Jana Shakti! The people's blessings are the truest strength of democracy and the noblest source of public resolve," Modi later posted on X.

He posted a second message congratulating the new CM. "Congratulations to Shri Suvendu Adhikari Ji on taking oath as West Bengal's chief minister. He has made a mark as a leader who has remained deeply connected to the people and understood their aspirations from close quarters. My best wishes to him for a fruitful tenure ahead," he wrote.

The ceremony, timed with Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary, blended symbolism and power projection. Modi removed his shoes before garlanding Tagore's portrait and later touched the feet of 97-year-old Jana Sangh veteran Makhan Lal Sarkar, an aide of Syama Prasad Mookerjee, whose ideological legacy shaped BJP's rise.

Suvendu aide murder probe leads cops to UP

Sanjib Chakraborty & Dwaipayan Ghosh | TNN

Kolkata: The investigation into the murder of Suvendu Adhikari's personal assistant, Chandranath Rath, has expanded into Uttar Pradesh, with a Bengal SIT-CID team pursuing technical leads in Badaun and Sambhal.

The team reached Badaun late Friday night after mobile call detail records and location data pointed to suspects in Gunnaur area, now part of Sambhal district.

The officials met Badaun SSP Ankita Sharma, shared technical inputs and suspected mobile numbers, and then moved to Sambhal to continue raids and verification.

Uttar Pradesh police are assisting with route coordination, local intelligence and identity verification.

Two youths were questioned based on suspicious mobile numbers, though their identities have not been disclosed. A separate SIT team is coordinating with Odisha Police.

Investigators believe seven to eight people were involved in the murder, including two professional sharpshooters and a "tipper" who tracked Rath's real-time location from a separate vehicle, enabling the attackers to execute the killing in under a minute.

Rath was shot dead near his residence in Dohariya area of North 24 Parganas district's Madhyamgram on Wednesday night. Buddhadeb Bera, who was driving the car, remains in the ICU.

Kaushik Das, a close relative of Rath, alleged that the victim had received death threats on WhatsApp and Facebook four to five days after the elections and had informed IB, DIB and North 24 Parganas SP.

"The SP could not trace the numbers. This angle should also be investigated," Das said.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Procurement Tender Notice No. SWR/W/TS/USFD/2026/04/E
Dated: 06.05.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Ultrasonic Testing of Rails & SEJs in Bengaluru Division. (E-tender No. SWR-SBC-USFD-RAIL-202602)	Rs. 1,29,45,380/-

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 04.06.2026
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
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North Eastern Railway
Corrigendum-I
Sub:- Design, Programming, Installation, Supply, Testing and Commissioning of Electronic Interlocking (EI) System Conforming to RDSO Specification No. RDSO/SPN/ 192/2019 or Latest (With Latest Amendment if any) as per SIP along with Indoor & Outdoor Work Including Part Supply of Materials at (SANR, CC, GB, BALR, DEOS, NRA, BHTR, BTK, MW, ZRDE, PCK, DDA, CW, EM, DDP, and KPS) (Centralized Type) Stations and Siwan Jn, & CHPG Station (Distributed 1+2 Type) in between GKC-CHPG Sections, Automatic Block Signalling work in CPR Jn-CI-CHPG Block Section and work for OFC cables GKC-BTT and CPR Jn-CI-CHPG Sections in Varanasi Division of N.E.Railway Ref: Tender No. NER_SnT_Proj_BSB_01_2026, Dt.: 10.04.2026 at 16:54 Hrs. In reference to the subject tender the following corrigendum 1 is issued herewith The last date of submission of bids against the above tender is extended from 26.05.2026 to 02.06.2026 up to 12:00 Tender will be open on 02.06.2026 at 12:30 All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.
CPRO/Signal-28
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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.W.D. CIRCLE BANSWARA (RAJ.)
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Phone - 02962-241808, E-Mail - piu_banswara@rediffmail.com, sebanswara.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in
क्रमांक:- डी-174 दिनांक:- 06.05.2026
NIB - PWD2627A0345
Notice Inviting Bid (06/2026-27)
Bids for Remaining Work of Permanent Restoration Work of Flood Damaged in Banswara District, Remaining Work of Rehabilitation of various damaged BT Road & Construction of various Missing Link Road in Banswara District and Remaining Works of Approach Road Amariya Pada under UC PHQ P.S. Bagidora (Risk and Cost) are invited from interested bidders from Dated 11-05-2026 9.30 am. to 01-06-2026 6.00 pm. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state. The approximate value of the procurement in Rs. 717.48 Lacs.
UBN - 1-PWD2627WSOB01519, 2-PWD2627WSOB01520, 3-PWD2627WSOB01521, 4-PWD2627WSOB01523, 5-PWD2627WSOB01525
Sd/- (Mathura Lal Meena) Superintending Engineer P.W.D. Circle Banswara
DIPR/C/8105/2026

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(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)
"Vidyut Bhawan", Near ISBT Crossing, Saharanpur Road, Majra, Dehradun -248002
Corporate ID No: U40101UR2004SGC028675 Tel. No. 0135-2642711
E-TENDER NOTICE
Power Transmission Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited invites E-Tender for "Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 220 kV Hybrid bay for 220 kV Piran Kaliyar-Puhana ckt-III at 220 kV Substation PiranKaliyar (Imlikhera)" against Tender Specification no. PTCUL/E-Tender/C&P-I/SS-01/2026-27". The last date of bid submission of e-bid is 11.06.2026 upto 15:30 Hrs. For more details please visit e-tender website www.uktenders.gov.in (Tender id no. 2026_PTCU1_95164_1) and for e-tender notice our website www.ptcul.org.
For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8899890000
Letter No.: 789/HQPU/PTCUL Superintending Engineer (C&P-I)
Dated : 07-05-2026 " Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation."

North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited (NEHHDC)
Garchuk, Guwahati, Assam
EOI Notice No.: NEHHDC/PURVI/2026/27/251/7169 Dated: 10-05-2026
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited (NEHHDC) under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from eligible entities for selection of franchise partners to operate "PURVI" showrooms for sale of North East India's finest Handicrafts, Handlooms and cultural products on PPP mode.
The detailed EOI document containing eligibility criteria, terms & conditions and submission procedure is available on CPP Portal (https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app) and website www.nehhdc.com.
Date of Issue of EOI: 08-05-2026
Last Date for Submission of EOI: 28-05-2026
EOI shall be submitted as per the instructions provided in the EOI document.
Sd/- Managing Director
NEHHDC Ltd., Garchuk, Guwahati, Assam

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH
TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Bid Submission Schedule (Online)	Opening Technical Bid (Online)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - Horticulture Division No. 2			
1.	Operation and Watch and Ward of Fountains in various Green Belts/Parks at varoious locations under the jurisdictionof SDE MC PH Sub Divn.No.19,Chandigarh under Revenue Head. Amount : Rs. 98,41,104/- Time Limit : 12 Months Earnest Money : Rs. 1,96,822/- Tender Fee : Rs. 3000/-	08.05.2026 at 5.30 P.M to 15.05.2026 at 3.00 P.M.	15.05.2026 at 3.00 P.M.

CONDITIONS
1. The tender documents will be downloaded by the contractors / bidders from the website Chandigarh.nic.in/Chandigarh.gov./tenders.gov.in
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Hort. Divn.No. 2, M.C. Chandigarh

CIDCO
WE MAKE CITIES
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
Development of Integrated Residential Township at Airoli, Navi Mumbai
The City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra Limited (the "Authority" or "CIDCO") invites Request For Proposal (RFP) from reputed Developers/Companies to undertake the Development of Integrated Residential Township at Airoli, Navi Mumbai (the "Project") based on State Government approved policy of 'Theme-Based and Iconic City Development' to facilitate the development of bulk land parcels in a holistic manner through Construction & Development Operator (CDO) Agreement and achieving an iconic, unified and integrated development.
1. Name of Project: Development of Integrated Residential Township, Plot No. 20, Sector-10A, Airoli, Navi Mumbai.
2. Plot Area: 68.8 Acres (Approx.)
3. C.A. No.: 02/CIDCO/Airoli/2025-26
4. Construction & Development Period: 20 Years
5. Method of Selection: H1 Selection. Bidder who is offering the Highest Revenue Share Percentage (in present value terms) shall be the Selected Bidder.
6. Tender Cost Fee: INR 200,000/- (Rupees Two Lakhs only) excluding 18% GST.
RFP Schedule :
1. Publishing Date on 11.05.2026 at 11.00 Hrs.
2. Document Download / Sale Start Date on 11.05.2026 at 11.00 Hrs.
3. Document Sale End Date on 22.06.2026 at 17.00 Hrs.
4. RFP Submission Start Date on 11.05.2026 at 17.00 Hrs.
5. RFP Submission End Date on 22.06.2026 at 17.00 Hrs.
6. Submission of Original Documents on 27.06.2026 at 16.00 Hrs.
7. Last Date to submit Pre-Bid Queries on 18.05.2026 at 17.00 Hrs.
8. Pre-Bid Meeting on 25.05.2026 at 15.00 Hrs.
9. RFP Opening Date on 23.06.2026 at 15.00 Hrs.
10. Opening of Financial Bid will be intimated further.
Important Instructions:
1. The detailed RFP document can be downloaded from the Government of Maharashtra e-Tendering Portal: www.mahatenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
2. Applicants shall submit their RFPs online through the above portal only.
3. Queries, if any, may be sent via email to mm.commercial@cidcoindia.com from 11.05.2026 to 18.05.2026.
4. Replies to queries shall be published online as Corrigendum latest by 01.06.2026.
5. CIDCO reserves the right to accept or reject any or all RFPs without assigning any reason thereof.
CIN - U99999 MH 1970 SGC-014574
www.cidco.maharashtra.gov.in
Marketing Manager (Commercial)
CIDCO/PR/063/2026-27

32001/169/2627
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
O/o THE CHIEF ENGINEER AND BASIN MANAGER
MAHANADI BASIN, AT- BURLA, DISTRICT- SAMBALPUR, PIN-768017
E-mail Id - cebmumbburla@gmail.com
'e' Procurement Notice No-CE & BM-MB-01/2026-2027 (Online)
BID IDENTIFICATION NO-CE & BM-MB-01/2026-2027 (Online)

1	Name of the work	:	Renovation of Canal System of Hirakud Dam Project (Lower Huma Canal Section, Sambalpur Irrigation Division, Sambalpur)
2	No of works	:	One (01) number
3	Class of contractor	:	"Special Class" and "Super Class"
4	Bid identification No	:	CE & BM-MB-01/2026-2027 (Online)
5	Estimated cost	:	Rs. 31.18 Crores
6	Period of completion	:	24 (Twenty-Four) Calendar Months
7	Date and time of availability of Bid Documents in the portal	:	Dated- 11.05.2026 at 11.30 AM to Dated- 01.06.2026 up to 5.00 PM.
8	Last date/time for receipt of Bids in the portal	:	Dated- 01.06.2026 up to 5.00 PM.
9	Date of opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I)	:	Dated- 02.06.2026 at 11.30 AM, O/o Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Mahanadi Basin, Burla
10	Name and Address of the Officer inviting Bid	:	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Mahanadi Basin, Burla, Dist-Sambalpur, Odisha, 768017 Email Id: cebmumbburla@gmail.com

1. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation/erratum of tender can also be seen in the said Website.
2. Further details can be seen from Government Website http://tendersodisha.gov.in.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager
Mahanadi Basin, Burla
OIPR-32001/32508/1/26-27/0003

32001/180/2627
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
UPPER INDRAVATI PROJECT
AT/PO: MUKHIGUDA, DIST : KALAHANDI, ODISHA, PIN: 766026
e-mail address: cceuip1987@gmail.com / louiipbbsr@gmail.com
1. Type of Work : Canal & structure Work
2. Total No. of Works : 14 nos.
3. Approximate value of work : Rs. 185.83 lakhs to Rs. 254.20 Lakhs (Excluding GST)
4. Tender Paper Cost : Rs. 10,000/-(online)
5. Bid Security/E.M.D : Rs. 1,85,900/- to Rs. 2,54,300/- (Online)
6. Period of Completion : 11 (Eleven Calendar months)
7. Class of Contractor : B & A Class

Procurement Officer	e-procurement Notice No.	Bid Amount	Availability of online viewing of Tender prior to Bidding From	To	Period for seeking tender clarification	Submission & Availability bid on-line	Date & time of opening of Technical Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, UPPER INDRAVATI PROJECT, AT/PO-MUKHIGUDA, DIST-KALAHANDI, ODISHA, PIN-766026.	CCE, UIP-01 (14)/2026-27, Dt. 30.04.2026	Rs. 1,85,82,621.44 to Rs. 2,54,20,413.84 (Excluding GST)	12.05.2026 (7.00 AM)	26.05.2026 (up to 1.00 PM)	12.05.2026 to 18.05.2026 during office hours.	12.05.2026 (07.00 AM) to 26.05.2026 (up to 1.00 PM)	28.05.2026 at 11:00 AM

Date of opening of technical bid : Dt-28.05.2026 at 11.00 AM in the O/O the Chief Construction Engineer, UIP, Mukhiguda, Kalahandi, Odisha, PIN-766026
Date of opening of financial bid : To be decided after finalization of Technical Bid. Further details can be seen from the Govt. Website www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer
Upper Indravati Project
Mukhiguda
OIPR-32001/32352/1/26-27/0001

20k Indian seafarers caught in Gulf turmoil: Mariners' body

Urges Govt To Treat Crisis As 'Nat'l Priority'

Ismat.Ara @timesofindia.com

REUTERS

Workers aboard an Indian vessel at the Strait of Hormuz

New Delhi: Over 20,000 Indian seafarers are staring at a humanitarian nightmare in the Gulf and Strait of Hormuz amid escalating tensions, with fears of conflict spillover trapping vessels and leaving crews stranded without food, medicine or escape routes, said National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI), one of the country's oldest maritime unions. The body has urged the govt to treat the crisis as a "national priority and activate urgent evacuation protocols".

The 20,000-plus Indian seafarers—drawn from the massive scale of Indian manpower in the region—remains fluid, as crews rotate daily based on vessel schedules, port curbs, flag states, and security alerts.

Seafarers operating in and around the Gulf now face missile and drone threats, operational restrictions and security advisories that have turned routine voyages through the technically open Strait of Hormuz into high-risk journeys marked by constant anxiety, heightened bridge alerts, disrupted sleep and mounting mental fatigue. "There is growing panic among seafarers and their families. We are constantly receiving calls from worried relatives asking if their family members will safely return home," Milind Kandalgaonkar, general secretary-cum-treasurer of NUSI, told **TOI** on Saturday. Across regions that contribute significantly to India's maritime workforce, families are tracking news alerts, ship movements and conflict updates.

Many Indian seafarers work aboard foreign-flagged vessels where responsibility is fragmented between shipowners, insurers, flag states and local authorities, according to Kandalgaonkar.

Unlike military personnel, merchant navy crews are civilian workers keeping global trade functional despite limited protection. "These seafarers serve global trade and India's economic security under extremely difficult conditions and deserve urgent protection," said Kandalgaonkar, who spent nearly two decades at sea. "Today's threats—missiles, drones, cyber disruptions, sanctions, insurance complications and operational restrictions—are all interacting simultaneously." NUSI has activated its emergency support initiative, 'NUSI Sahara', to respond to distress calls on safety, mental stress, repatriation, wages, abandonment and communication with authorities.

India has already stepped up naval deployment with Operation Urja Suraksha, aimed at monitoring and protecting Indian maritime interests in high-risk waters.

New Navy chief to focus on ongoing force modernisation

▸Continued from page 1

Prior to his present role, he was vice-chief of army staff from July 1, 2024, to July 31, 2025, and general officer commanding-in-chief, Central Command from March 2023 to June 2024. In an illustrious career spanning over 40 years, Lt Gen Subramani has served across a wide spectrum of conflict and terrain profiles and held a host of command, staff and instructional posts. He had the distinction of commanding 2 Corps, the premier strike Corps of Army on the western front. He also commanded 16 Garhwal Rifles during counter-insurgency in Assam as part of Op Rhino, 168 Infantry Brigade in J&K and 17 Mountain Division in central sector.

An alumnus of Joint Services Command Staff College, Bracknell (UK), and National Defence College, New Delhi, Lt Gen Subramani holds an MA degree from King's College London and an M Phil in defence studies from Madras University.

Vice Admiral Swaminathan is currently serving as flag officer commanding-in-chief of Western Naval Command. As Navy chief, he is likely to focus on the ongoing modernisation of force. He has held several key operational, staff and training posts in his naval career, including the command of missile vessels INS Vidyut and Vinash, missile corvette INS Kulish, guided missile destroyer INS Mysore and aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya. He was also instrumental in raising Indian Naval Safety Team that oversees operational safety across all verticals of Navy.

Swaminathan's qualifications also include a BSc degree from JNU, MSc in telecommunications from Cochin University of Science and Technology, and PhD in International Studies from Mumbai University.

6 new faces likely to be inducted into Yogi ministry

Rajiv Srivastava & Pankaj Shah | TNN

Lucknow: A day after the grand swearing-in ceremony of the Suvendu Adhikari govt in Bengal, the Yogi Adityanath cabinet will see an expansion on Sunday. With the next big electoral battle slated in UP early next year, it will be a tightrope walk for BJP to ensure regional and caste balance in what's going to be the last expansion/reshuffle before the polls.

CM Yogi met governor Anandiben Patel on Saturday evening, a day before the expansion. Among prominent names likely to get a berth in the ministry are BJP's former state president Bhupendra Chaudhary, who is an MLC, and SP rebel Manoj Pandey. Varanasi district president Hansraj Vishwakarma, an OBC, and Dalit MLAs Krishna Paswan (Fatehpur) and Surendra Diler (Khair in Aligarh) are also among the probables. Jawahar Rajput, a Lodh Rajput MLA from Garauntha constituency could be another surprise, sources said. Chaudhary's induction will mark BJP's outreach to the Jat community in the politically significant west UP.

Gujarat HC notice over deletion of Muslim voters in SIR

Saeed.Khan@timesofindia.com

Ahmedabad: Gujarat high court has issued notices to state election authorities on petitions demanding an SIT probe against people who allegedly filed false applications for deletion of Muslim voters from draft rolls published after SIR. A former Congress MLA, Chandanji Thakor, is among the petitioners.

Justice HM Prachchhak issued the notices recently for replies from the state govt, chief electoral officer, district election officers, electoral registration officers and police officials of Patan and Gir Somnath districts. He fixed the next hearing on July 7. Besides action against those who filed false Form No. 7 applications for deletion of names, the petitioners have demanded proceedings against the authorities for not taking action.

Kuki rebels enter Manipur conflict, fuels border violence

Prabin.Kalita @timesofindia.com

Guwahati: Manipur's ethnic conflict has taken a cross-border turn, with Myanmar-based insurgents allegedly entering Kamjong district and joining attacks on Tangkhul Naga villages along the India-Myanmar border, sources said.

Officials said cadres of Kuki National Army-Burma (KNA-B), working alongside anti-junta People's Defence Force (PDF) elements and Village Volunteers Eastern Zone (VVEZ), attacked Namlee, Wangle and Choro villages on May 7. "KNA-B helped the Village Volunteers Eastern Zone in attacking three Tangkhul Naga villages in Kamjong district on May 7," a defence official said.

VVEZ, which claims to represent Kuki-Zo interests in Manipur's eastern hill districts, claimed responsibility for May 7 attacks in retaliation for burning of Lanchah village in Kamjong on May 2.

Supriya's car dashed by another vehicle on E-way

Mumbai: NCP (SP) working president Supriya Sule on Saturday said her car was dashed by another vehicle on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway but she and those travelling with her were safe.

"While travelling from Pune to Mumbai today I had an awful experience on the highway when vehicle GJ13CF5257 rammed into my car from the side due to reckless driving," she wrote on X. PTI

TIMES Soulmate

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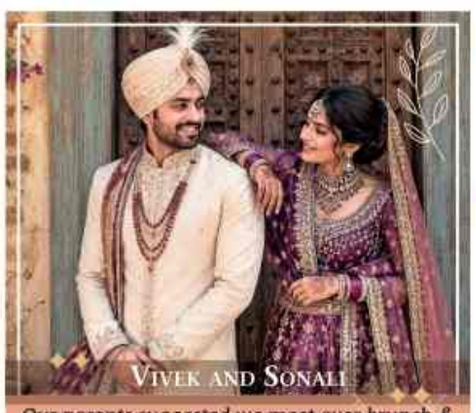

Our parents suggested we meet over brunch & see how we gel. Between shared plates & endless stories, our awkwardness disappeared & comfort quietly took its place. We knew we had to explore that feeling more.

MATRIMONIALS

WANTED BRIDES

BY CASTE

AGARWAL-BISA

29/5'10 B.Tech-IIT MS wkg with google 1Cr +well establd B'ness Fmly, Caste No Bar .No dowry Rich Fmly #9826502693 Email: bdmatj@gmail.com

JAISWAL Boy B.Tech - IIT (K),IAS (Jharkhand)/26/5'10" Gora / Edu. Fmly. Pref - Prof-Edu Girl. Caste no Bar. Send BHP # rpc.ncr5@gmail.com

BRAHMIN

SM4 Aug 94/5'9", fair, B.Tech (DTU) & MS (MI, USA), Brhmn wkg in USA (VA), Fthr Retd Sr Official in Navy. Upper Caste, wkg girl in US pref. 9582913037

29/5'10" B.Tech IIT,M.S.(Eng) GOOGLE wkg,1Cr+ Tetotaller Boy, Father Defenc Oficer,Elite family, Caste no bar. No dowry. 9226324317 rasrm68@gmail.com

HANDSOME Srswt Brahmin 31 yrs/6'/ High income, MBA (USA), Settled in India, From High status family, Caste no bar. Call 9115551721, 9464513311

SUITABLE Match for Boy, sept 91, 5'10", Never Married, BBA, Gaur Brahmin, Own Transport Business, Mumbai, 9820101342

WANTED BRIDE
For Fair, Handsome Brahmin Boy, Born 1991, 5'8". MBA from prestigious Stanford University (USA), BTech (CSE) from NIT (Double Gold Medalist). Rich Affluent Nuclear Business Family of IITians and IIMians from Bhopal, MP.
Mob.: 9399820743
sssk36014@gmail.com

JATAV

H'SOME Dubai-based MS USA Jatav boy 1991/5'7"/$150K Delhi NCR family seeks beautiful well-educated girl. Cast no bar#9650408495

KAYASTHA

SM for 29/5'8", Master's from Aachen Univ & wrkg as Simulation Engr in Germany. Younger son of edu. Kyastha fmly from UP; Father retired Class-I Railway Officer and Mother a leading Psychologist, Seeks Professionally Qlfd girl from cultured fmly #9147746262

37YRS Bhatnagar Manglik MBA boy 5'11" noida based 15 LPA. Consultant in MNC. 9412084272 , mrraj4@gmail.com

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Scan to share your wedding picture and tell us the story of your beautiful beginning arranged by your families.
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STAND A CHANCE TO GET FEATURED ON OUR MATRIMONIAL PAGE.

KHATRI

49/5.9 TALL divorcee belongs to high status family prefer middle and upper cast and beautiful very fair bride contact 9554222279

KUSHWAHA

KUSHWAHA H'some Boy 28/5'7" MCA Engr Google Banglr 25LPA seeks B'ful wkg girl Mob:7294809376, 9973433805 vill.dumari manjhi 841313

NAIDU

NAIDU Boy, 35/180 cms, MD, DNB (Onco), working as Assistant Professor in Govt. Hospital and Consultant in many leading hospitals at Hyderabad. Elite family. Seeks suitable matrimonial proposals from PG or post PG medical doctors. Contact Parents: WhatsApp: 8332853746, 9866053746 e-mail: udvaha23@gmail.com

BY COMMUNITY

AGRAWAL

SM4 NM Garg Boy, Never Married, Nov.'84, 5'-7", BE, MBA (USA), Software IT Prof. , CA-USA, H1B, Seeks US based working Girl- 9099978143

RAJPUT

PQM for Tall, H'some Non-Mnglk Rajput boy 30/6 ft/ B.Tech MBA frm IIFT (Delhi), Wrkg MNC(B'lore). Fthr Retd. Civil srvnt. W/A 9355475996

SOLANKI Rajput H'sm NM, boy 97/183cm BLR MNC 36LPA G.noida Seeks b'ful cultured &virtuous equivalent Wkg girl 9873250498(F)

BY RELIGION

CHRISTIAN

WANTED Christian God fearing girl preferably PG in medical for 5ft 7" MDS handsome boy 29 yr reputed family in Jabalpur Con : sandeep_2011@rediffmail.com 7692800306

SYRIAN Catholic bridegroom, 1986, 174 cm fair, B.Tech MBA, MNC Bangalore. A fair good-looking qualified bride needed. 99720 05190.

HINDU

HINDU Besta, Kannada, June'84/Pune Born/5'8",Graduate, Never Married, good-looking, Job in RBI Press, Mysore, 20LPA seeks Hindu, Never Married, good-looking bride(34-41), 5'-5'8", Educated, Working, mother tongue Kannada/ Marathi/ Tulu/ Konkani/ others preferred. Caste no bar. Call/WA 7899402978

SM4 handsome cultured 28/5'8 MBA from reputed institute working in Mumbai with MNC, from affluent professional family, looking for smart educated girl from a good family background Contact: 7738384326.

WANTED -BRIDE: For a Well Settled Business Man Based in Mangalore, NEVER MARRIED Hindu Brahmin , Aged: 50/ 5'11", Seeks suitable bride, 34-39 years. Caste No Bar.WhatsApp/call:7975425487

BENGALI BTech Br boy Debari gon SW Engg 34 yrs/5'11 Pune Wkg MNC seeks Wkg Qual girl from Br,Kayastha and Baidya.9705163285

CASTE No Bar HYD B.Tech boy in MNC, OCT1995 5'8" seeks beautiful educated HYD based alliance whatsapp 9000031115 /9949521299

MUSLIM

WANTED beautiful tall, religious girl for H'some 27 yrs, 6'ft Sunni Businessman, office in Mumbai & Dubai from reputed family. Ph: 9867503350

SUNNI Muslim boy, 1997 born, MBBS/MS, looking for a suitable match from respectable families.(080-69144026)

SUNNI Muslim boy, 1994 born, MS in CS, working in London, UK, looking for compatible alliance. (9164400029)

SUNNI Muslim boy, 36 years, divorced, M.Tech Software Engineer (75 LPA), from a decent Bangalore family, seeking suitable match.(080-69072057)

ELITE Sunni Muslim boy, born 18/04/1999, only son from an affluent Bangalore-based business family, seeking suitable alliance.(080-69144019)

H'SOME boy 32/5'11' PG from UK, of elite Hyd family - seeks prof qual Sunni muslim girl. Call or W/A 9679999635

SIKH

MBA (ISB,Hyd)+BE cln shaven, nvr mrd, handsome 38/6'4", 70 LPA Bangalore based. Seek Sikh/Pb girl, caste no bar Ph 9035408600

MATCH for cleanshaven Bhatia Sikh 32,5'6",only child ,pilot with international airline,50lacs pa. family owns properties of over 25cr.Call 9650777199

GENERAL

CASTE NO BAR

ALLIANCE invited for 5'8" MS Electrical Engineering, VLSI from USA. Non-smoking person, 46Y, Genuinely caring, open-minded and trusted individual with a level-headed, grounded approach. Values ethics, creativity, elegance & simplicity. Grew up in Mumbai. Visit nashineys.wordpress.com or search Facebook for Siddharth Nashiney. Creative posts on his blog/Facebook may shed light on the sincere, thoughtful essence inherent in his nature. Whatsapp Father T.R Nashiney +919769733721. Marriage bureaus - please excuse. Caste No Bar.

REPUTED Hindu business family from Hyd Alliance for son 40 looking for homely girl from Hindu business family&HNI family only 9885008270

HINDU 57"/57year Divorcee, Company Director, BE + MBA, based at Moscow, Russia, seeks suitable bride, caste / religion NO BAR. Ph: 9004528568 / shagan.russia@mail.ru

SM4 Del NCR based Nov 87/5'7", BA, LLB, LLM In-house Counsel in top MNC 25 plus lpa seeks b'ful well educated.W'app profile with pics 7838416665

SOUTH Delhi Kayastha boy, LLM (Ivy League), Lawyer working in Delhi. Nov 91 born (6'2.5") seeking a well Qualified girl. Caste no bar. 9811996787

PQM for Pb Khatri NM boy Dec91/5'6" 7.5LPA MBA Working Admin Gurgaon. Caste no bar. #9899242416, lakshayahuja05@gmail.com

HINDU Man aged 41 years separated well settled own house in Bangalore seeks suitable Bride widow/ divorcee also & any Caste. 96868 64650

PQM4 H'some Brahmin Boy ,BTech, MBA ISB, 31Yr, 5'10", Teetotaler Non Smoking,CTC 40 LPA, w'king Gurugram. 7060884999,7060761485.

PATEL boy, 33yr/5'7" MS (Electronics), Software Engineer Germany, PR Status, Caste No Bar, Call 919993013290

FAIR , sweet natured, beautiful educated girl for an Excellent Natured handsome MBA punjabi boy, 29yrs, 5ft 9in. Working in Los Angeles, USA. Call/Email 9910336355 Kusumw@gmail.com

BANGALORE settled hindu kerala pillai boy 48/5.6", legally divorced, self employed caste no bar. 9900595898, 8073594062.

A well-settled South Indian Family searching for an alliance for their only son, born in 1993, 5'10", with a Master's degree from the UK, Businessman. Contact - 7200200946

Seeking professionally qualified tall girl from cultured family for 36/6'3", Baniya boy, M.Tech (USA), working in Top MNC in Bangalore. Both Parents doctors in Lucknow.
Please call/whatsapp 9415026358 9415518399

COSMOPOLITAN

DM doctor (Dec-91/185 cm/ Tamil- Hindi) seeks a virtuous, tall, v.fair, PG Dr/ well edu bride(29-31 yrs) @ Bangalore. Parents: 9342529547/9072118800

SECOND MARRIAGE

Nagpur based very well established Agarwal business family seeks alliance for their Son/ 45 yrs/ 5ft 9"/ Div/LLB,MBA/ into family business and also running Law firm. Looking for a compatible match, Caste no bar/status no bar/but without child
9999599564
Or Mail Us At
Vpss999@gmail.com

RELIGION NO BAR

39/5'9" unmarried Boy Caste no bar Btech-MBA IIM, Wrkg MNC 50 LPA Bn'ess family Accept Divorcee & Widow 9407932961,7587736854

BY LANGUAGE

BENGALI

ASST PROF. IN REPUTED UNIVERSITY 30, 5'-6" SEEKING FOR EDUCATED GOODLOOKING BENGALI GIRL M:9208318881

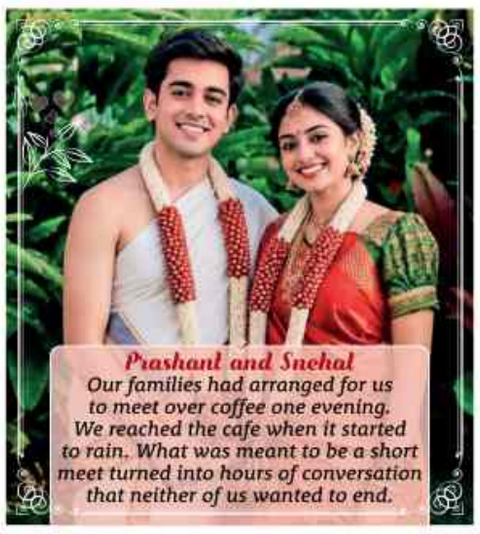
CPA USA, Vice president MNC in Delhi.Own villa in dehradun. Unmarried, 46 yrs 5 feet 5". Wanted bengali bride with in 36 yrs. 7042723399

PUNJABI

SEEKING caring bride for issueless divorced MBA smart clean-shaven handsome Sikh gentleman 55 yrs and 5'10" residing in Mumbai suburb. Pls call/whatsapp 9820054157 or 9820054507.

NM, PQM for H'Som Veg, NM, Bahl Boy, Mar'97/ 5'9, B.Tech, Del, MBA (NMIMS-Bom), Wrkg Tata Grp, Blr, 33 LPA # 9899112611/ 9811765551

BRIDE WANTED
Suitable match for Punjabi Khatri High Status, Well Established Computer Engg. (MIT), MBA (XLRI, Jamshedpur), very Handsome, very Fair, Clean Shaven, Convent Educated, Non Manglik Boy 35/6'0" having own Real Estates and Power Generation business **(High rental income)** in Jamshedpur. Looking for Punjabi girl of reputed family. No Dowry will be Accepted.
CONTACT : 6207121650
88jamshedpur@gmail.com


Prashant and Snehal
Our families had arranged for us to meet over coffee one evening. We reached the cafe when it started to rain. What was meant to be a short meet turned into hours of conversation that neither of us wanted to end.

WANTED GROOMS

BY CASTE

BRAHMIN

ALLIANCE invited for a well-educated, professionally settled Brahmin Iyengar (Vadakalai) girl ,44 currently in Australia. short marriage with no issues. Cultured, family-oriented, emotionally mature, and values tradition along with a modern outlook. Professionally established, independent, and believes in mutual respect, companion ship, and shared values in marriage.Seeking a suitable alliance from groom well-educated, professionally settled Brahmin Iyengar, with good family values and a progressive mindset. Email id: mohanchari@hotmail.com . Serious and genuine inquiries only.

PQM for Br. daughter / never married / Nov - 83 born / BE IT - Working as SENIOR SOLUTION ARCHITECT -Bglr. in USA Based MNC / 60 LPA / Ph :+91- 9327325444 / Email : tkn1944@gmail.com

IIM(B) /BITS educated 32y/171cm Mumbai based beautiful kashmir Brahmin girl seeks well-qualified India based professional Brahmin match. Father professor,mother a doctor. Whatsapp :9829415355 /8058788861

BRAHMIN, 20.7.99 ; Fair, B'ful, 5'4", MA Psychology, wrkg, Veg (Doctor family), Udaipur. Seeks PQ/ Business/Job, settled handsome Brahmin/Jain groom. 7891188213

SINDHI

HOMELY Bride Required (Caste No Bar) For A Fair Complexion 35 Year Sindhi Businessman In Kolkata. Call: 92305 06579

BY NATIONALITY

NRI/ GREEN CARD

BALIJA Naidu 32, 6'1" MS, MBA on H1B in US seeks alliances from tall, fair, beautiful well educated girls in US from respectable south indian families. WA : 9860005059/ email: vwnaidu@gmail.com

INDIAN groom 35/5'6", PhD, Scientist, Hong Kong, seeks educated, family-oriented bride. India/NRI. WhatsApp: 8850171930.

PUNJABI Arora boy Feb'91 /5'7.5"B.Tech MS USA emplyd in USA (H1B), seeks Edu. emplyd bride. Parents residing in Delhi # 9899696058

ODIA Brahmin family invites alliance for 31yrs daughter, fair, 5'3", B.Tech (CSE) from NIT, well placed in Seattle, USA. In search of Odia Brahmin / Karan groom with similar background. WhatsApp with complete biodata to: 9437072475

AFFECTIONATE Educd Brhmn Vg man upto 52yr for 46+ USCtzn Iyr Wdwd in NJ Car Acdnt2005 Div2018 WelStidBlr NoChld UseWlkr C:9945505879/7349264137

MBA HR, MSC PGD in Food GLP, PGD in GC, b'ful Br. girl Vats 5'3"/2000, single child, Parents Retd Off, C.Govt, ONGC affluent fmly, seeks Edu well setld boy. 8077581932

SUITABLE match for girl 28/5' Punjabi Sarnaswat Brahmin MBA working in MNC Hyderabad, Contact 9340722602

KAYASTHA

KAYASTHA girl,Sept.96,5'7",Smart,Sr.Manager MNC Gurgaon,35LPA,MBA ISB Hydb.,MBA+Engg. NMIMS Mum.,seeks well settled boy in India from Civil Services or Corporate,IIT/IIM/equivalent. UCNB.Contact:9425041702

MATCH for 23/5'2"fair B.tech(CS spl.AI &ML) wrk as Software engineer in MNC em: outlook1005a@gmail.com 9868103516/9968654396

KHATRI

SEEKING a well-settled, smart, tall boy for a 5'.5", Dec 94 born, punjabi girl, working in BLR, but ready to relocate. call/ whatsApp 9849640921

KURMI

KURMI Kshatriya Girl 28/ 5'4" Wheatish Bhopal M.P. Based Working in Dubai (80Lpa+) Engr. (Gold) MBA IIM Ahmedabad # 7415139337

VAISH

IIT Bombay M.Tech , Guptn/ Kesharwani girl 29/5.3" currently wkg as Sr. Mngr in leading Org. Mumbai. Raipur (CG) bsd b'sn fmly 6261710043

BY COMMUNITY

AGARWAL

PQM for Goyal girl 5 ft / born April 1987/51 kgs MBA, MS working in USA. I-140 approved. Open to relocation in USA /India. Mobile 9823345267

KERALITE

PHD, SCIENCE Research Girl Jul'94 5'4 working UK.Seek Qual boy.Parents working Singapore #+6596660955. vsheba.oes@gmail.com

BY PROFESSION

DOCTORS

MATCH for Garhwali Rajput Doctor pursuing MD (Derma), 27 years, height 5'2" from educated, cultured family. Seeking doctor (MD/MS/DNB) from well-educated family. WhatsApp: 9820749630

Bride Groom Wanted for DOCTOR
Hindu Nadar MBBS Doctor pursuing MS (OG) – Final Year 25 Years height 5'5", fair and Good Looking
Native Thoothukudi District and settled in T. Nagar, Chennai. VIP Family and Rich background
Looking for MBBS, MD, MS qualified Groom
rjrhouse201@gmail.com
9487657423 / 9514777115

OTHER PROFESSIONALS

1997, 5'6", beautiful, fair, Stanford Master's. Multi-talented / compassionate, Seeks well-qualified groom from Top 15 US schools. (E) uzsh0214@gmail.com

BY RELIGION

HINDU

SOUTH Indian Bride, 1991 Born | 5'2", MBBS, MD Doctor, Very Beautiful | Affluent Family Father, Mother & Brother are Doctors Seeking a professionally qualified and well-settled groom. Caste no bar Neha. Call: 9972605001, 9686618001

DOCTOR, MS (O&G), DNB, MRCOG (London), FNB Bangalore. DOB 05.11.1990, Rohini star, Rishabh Rashi, No Dosham, Tamil Kshatriya girl, Both parents Doctor in Bhilai. Seeking PG Doctor Mob: 8103350689

HINDU Girl, 05-1997/5'2", B.Tech, Software Engr., MNC, Hyderabad, Punjab origin, Seeks well-settled, prof.qual. Boy mat246k@gmail.com

SM4 28Y 5'4" Fair Punjabi Girl MBA MNC Gurgaon Seek PQ boy 29 to 31Y in Corporate or Com. Pilot from Defence Offrs Family WA 7838706856

MUSLIM

MASTERS n Qualified Teacher Status Shia Syed B'ful girl 28yrs 168cms from UK. Teaching in London having Skilled Visa Bought up in India 9839413369, +447440774954

SUNNI Muslim Reputed fmly of Patna seeks edu, family oriented groom (Syed, sheikh, Pathan)for good looking , tall girl 25, MBA (United Kingdom) M- 8294358123

SIKH

Sikh Arora girl, CA, Aug-91, 5'4", Working in MNC Gurgaon
Seeking Service class boy from India. Contact: 9833564454, 9650285649

H/STATUS Sikh buss. fmly seeks PQM for convent edu b'ful girl nov 93/5'5¾"MBA/ s-emplyd/high income / Canadian PR. 9876091157

GENERAL

CASTE NO BAR

OXFORD UK PhD 90/5'6" Girl, English professor in Bengaluru. Never married,Fair and slim. Father a Doctor Bengaluru native Seeks suitable well settled professional, businessmen. Preferably Bengaluru based HINDU family 8762014060, 6364741074

SLIM, Fair, B'ful, Never Married, Punjabi girl, 37, 5'3", born & brought up in Delhi. Working as Strategy Director in MNC in Bangalore, (Rs.60 LPA). Seeks smart, well-settled match based in Bangalore. Contact: 7837483747

SEEKING alliance from upper caste for Bangalore based,MArch,beautiful,1995 /5'6", daughter of Army officer.Mother, sister Doctors.Contact 9885186147

LUCKNOW based Girl 5.2"/1996 working as a Research Scientist U.C.L.A (USA). Call : 9319500861, 9650312918

BEAUTIFUL South Indian Girl of Bangalore, 1999 Born / 5'4 / MBBS, MD pursuing, Affluent Family is looking for a suitable match- (7200200946)

DIVORCED 39 yrs female working in Blr. Looking for well settled groom. If interested please contact 9977801445 , 9826294894

PQM4, Feb 78/5'3" b'full Br girl, Dr. Owns Eye hosp in Noida. I'Less Div,high Status fmly in NCR. Send BHP, W'tsup # 9560871111.

SM 4 Rajput 35/ 5'3" MBA (Fashion Designer) b'ful Indore based homely girl. Open for all Upper Caste. Indore based preferred. 9300473725

SECOND MARRIAGE

Wanted educated groom for upper middle class, Bengali,Educated,working,divorcee girl 43 yrs, 5"5 contact 8527800871

MUMBAI based 34 years. Christian/ Punjabi. Divorcee, issueless. Sr. Cabin Crew with Air India, Only Pilots/ Indian Defence Grooms. Ph: 9833342212

BY LANGUAGE

BENGALI

BENGALI Brahmin Girl 1992/5'3" Slim fair working in airlines (Grd. Crew) at Delhi, Non-Veg. Seeks well-settled, Educated Groom.:- 97698 85822

MALAYALI

LONDON PG girl, MNC BLR, Ezhava, 26 yrs, 155 cm, Native Thrissur, seeks Malayali Ezhava Hindu groom, PG, MNC, well settled, 9880220199.

PUNJABI

PQM 4 Bangalore bsd fair B'ful Punjabi girl 32/5'6" Sr. Sft. Eng. Pkg 34 L, Family Lucknow bsd seeks Prof. Qlfd. Well Settled groom: 9415469956, 9307609110

Alliance Invited
for well educated, beautiful, fair & cultured **Punjabi Arora Girl** (D.O.B. 1993, Height 5'6") completed Masters from Top UK University. **We seek a** professionally qualified groom in business / service from a cultured and affluent family.
Phone/Whatsapp:
9792002682
Marriage bureau please excuse.

TAMIL

Vannia Kula Kshatriya MD 31y6m Affluent Good Looking Smart Working in Corporate Hospital seeks Well to do Groom MD/MS 9840471097

BY NATIONALITY

NRI/ GREEN CARD

USA SFO/Bay Area groom for convent educated Agarwal girl. Never married. Oct. '88, 5'4". M.Des. (Ivy League). Working with state govt. Mo/WhAp 9850588978.

IYER Brahmin Parents seek for their daughter. Dentist (BDS Mumbai, MPh Houston, DDS UCLA) in San Francisco, (H1B visa ,I-140 Green Card in process) , 35/5'2", Vegetarian, a suitably Qlfd, Smart & Very Well Settled Match from the USA. Iyers prefd. Send details to : malaika_n@hotmail.com ,WA/M: 9833494080

HINDU Punjabi British citizen 35,5'8" fair and good looking working in UK MNC seeks professional UK settled boy. Whatsapp - 9312265430

B.TECH Tamil Mudaliar Girl DOB Dec 94 NRI Wkg MNC UAE, 42LPA,Seeks boy Wkg Abroad, CasteNoBar CT8667248379.

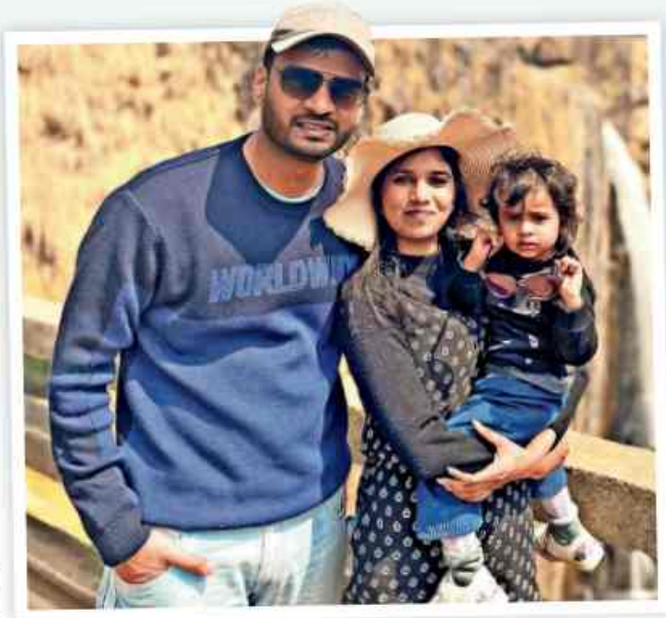
SEATTLE /metro area based boy for Microsoft s/w Engr girl Dec91 / 5'5" nonveg. Caste/lower age no bar WA 9845624616

PQM4 Sindhi Girl 49/5'4" Never Married B.E. MBA Sr Director USA M:9820303313, E: Vivah77@gmail.com

Gaurav with Rutwika & Ruhanika

Mini jet-setters: Meet the couples who travel the world with kids

A vacation with kids is nothing but parenting in a new location. All parents have heard this witty one-liner and also know how accurate it is. That's why most couples cut down on travelling or choose all-inclusive resorts that are a short drive or flight away after they have kids. But some manage to travel extensively even with their bubs in tow. With the summer vacay round the corner, ***Neha Bhayana*** *spoke to three globe-trotting families to know their stories, and their secrets to making it work*



'We don't bother looking for kid-friendly destinations. We make the places fun'

Neefa, Charles and Evita
17 countries, 13 Indian states

Evita was just three when she went snorkelling along The Great Barrier Reef and the Ningaloo Reef in Australia. At six, she visited the Danakil Depression (one of the hottest places on Earth) in Ethiopia. She walked on hardened lava and hot magma to see the Erta Ale, an active volcano. During the same trip, she also undertook a one-hour-long hike followed by a 15-minute near-vertical barefoot climb (with a safety harness) and traversed a narrow ledge with a sharp drop-off to reach the world's most dangerous church, the Abuna Yemata Guh.

These adventures may seem remarkable to most, but they are a regular affair for eight-year-old Evita who has been to 17 countries and 13 Indian states with her parents. Goa-based couple Charles and Neefa had always been travel enthusiasts. They met during a friends' trip to Hampi, got engaged when Charles proposed to Neefa on top of Sigiriya, a rock fortress in Sri Lanka, and decided to become parents when they were in Argentina. They were looking at the Evita Peron statue in Buenos Aires when Neefa declared that if they had a baby girl, they would name her after the actor and former first lady. Their wish came true when Evita was born in 2017.

The little one took her first flight from Bangalore to their family home in Goa when she was just 40 days old. At seven months, her parents took her to Ooty by road. Neefa was so stressed about Evita's meals she carried the whole kitchen in a suitcase. "From utensils to groceries and a hot plate, I carried it all, but it was a disaster. I wasted so much time preparing meals and felt disappointed when she barely ate. I realised it was not practical," she admits. After returning, Neefa started teaching Evita to self-feed solids and introduced normal family food based on the principles of baby-led weaning. For their next trip — they went to Israel when she was 18 months old — they had to carry nothing as Evita ate everything her parents ate. The flight to Israel was about seven hours. Most parents would dread staying in a seat with an infant for that long but Neefa considers this "a short one" considering they have done 24-hour flights too.

PRO TIP
Take it slow. Plan one outing a day of not more than 3-4 hours. Let the child chill in the pool or read/play rest of the time

Extended breastfeeding and baby-wearing were among the top secrets of managing Evita during trips when she was a toddler, the couple says. Whenever she was cranky, they would just put her in the carrier on Neefa so she could fall asleep while they continued the tour. These days, they carry books and one favourite toy to keep her engaged. The mother-daughter duo recently went on a month-long road trip across Tamil Nadu. "I actually wanted to do a solo road trip, but family members were hesitant about letting a girl travel alone. So I said, okay, I'll take Evie along and then there will be two girls travelling together," she winks, adding that they share their stories on their Instagram handle @adventures.of.antaos.

Ask Charles and Neefa which is the most kid-friendly destination and they look blank. "We don't bother looking for kid-friendly places. We just go to offbeat places and make the experience fun for our daughter," says Neefa. When they went to Cambodia, for instance, they made a Bingo game for Evita where they marked all the temples on the page and she had to pick the ones she had visited.

'We don't use screens on trips. We savour the sights and sounds'

Mounika, Charan and Myra
3 countries, 10 Indian states

The rear seat of Mounika and Charan Chakilam's SUV is like a second home for their three-year-old daughter Myra. There are ample toys, books and a car seat which serves as her bed for long journeys. Myra has spent a significant portion of her life in the car as her parents love exploring the country by road. They have driven to 15 Indian states, including 10 with Myra. The travel buffs have also flown to three countries with Myra and four before her birth.

The Chakilams got Myra used to being outdoors by taking her out almost daily when she was a baby. "I started taking her to malls, exhibitions and parks when she was just two months old even though people would warn me against taking a little baby to crowded places," says Mounika.

PRO TIP
Pack three sets of clothes per day for your child. Also, carry small packs of munchies like makhana or mix nuts to feed on

When Myra was six months old, they drove from their home (in a town located 200 kms from Guwahati) to Tawang district in Arunachal Pradesh via the Sela pass, perched at an altitude of 13,000 feet above sea level. The journey is often described as a "drive through the clouds" and Mounika says she is glad they decided to go for it despite all the concerns. "It was a breath-taking experience; a drive to remember," says Mounika. "We were prepared with all kinds of medicines and supplies as Myra was a little baby, but fortunately she did fine."

Initially, Mounika and Charan used to take Myra's nani or dadi along to help look after her, but after her first birthday they managed by themselves. They went for a five-day cruise from Mumbai to Lakshadweep and back when Myra was a year old and found it to be the perfect choice for families with small kids.

Little Myra is as adventurous as her parents, says Mounika. She was squealing with delight when she sat between them on a jet ski in Malaysia and also tried every single ride meant for little ones when they went to Disney World Resort in Florida when she was 2.5 years old. "She also wanted to try rides and roller coasters meant for older kids and adults. She cried when we told her that wasn't allowed," laughs Mounika.

What's also remarkable is that all their trips have been screen free. Mounika has never shown Myra a phone or iPad to keep her entertained during long journeys. "I do not look at my own phone either. I savour the sights and sounds of the places we visit rather than scrolling," says Mounika.

She and Charan are from Hyderabad but have been living in Assam for a few years now as the latter, a public sector employee, has been posted there. They have seen almost the entire northeast and hope to explore western India next as Charan will take up a new post in Gujarat soon. Their mission is to "measure the length and breadth of the globe" with their little one and they share their journey via their Instagram handle @minitravelsquad.

'We travel without a to-do-list now, and we love it'

Monika, Shivanshu and Shivik
8 countries, 9 Indian states

From exploring the Pyramids of Giza during their honeymoon to chilling on the beaches of Philippines and exploring the hidden villages of Nagaland, software professionals Monika Jain and Shivanshu Gupta had been on a travel spree after their marriage. When Shivik was born in 2023, they thought their adventures had come to an end. Neither of them had ever even held an infant in their arms, so they had to learn everything from scratch. But within a few months, their baby's routine was set and they started itching to travel again.

Monika didn't want to risk planning a trip straightaway, so they decided to take baby steps with their baby. They started visiting local cafes and restaurants, gradually increasing the duration of the outings. When Shivik was seven months old, they took him for his first trip to Goa. "This was the best decision ever. It is a super convenient place. If you have already been to Goa, then take your baby to Goa for sure. That way there will not be much pressure to explore," says Monika. On most days during the trip, the Delhi couple used to simply spread a mat on the beach and relax with their little one.

Their second trip (to Kerala) was more challenging. Shivik was nine months old and used to eating semi-solids like dal and fruit purees by then. Monika thought she would get these made at the hotel. But Shivik found the flavours different and rejected all meals. "He survived only on bananas," says Monika, who has carried an electric instant pot to make khichdi and porridge for all subsequent trips. She shares tips for travelling with babies via their Instagram page @twoitchyfeets.

PRO TIP
Start small. Take short flights or drive to nearby destinations first. Gradually, explore further as your confidence grows

The trio has covered nine Indian states and eight counties over the past two years. Which is the most baby-friendly destination? "Hong Kong," says Monika. "We had expected Hong Kong to be all about nightlife and skyscrapers. Instead, we found it to be a place with pleasant weather and families out and about with their babies in strollers. Their infrastructure is extremely stroller-friendly, even more than London's."

While the frequency of their trips remains the same, the pace has changed drastically. "Earlier, we didn't stop. We used to be out from 5am and would return to the hotel room to crash at 11pm. Now, we travel with no rush and no to-do list. We stick to one or two sights a day," says Monika. "We have grown to love this new, slow form of travelling."

Shivanshu agrees: "Travelling is a great way to connect with nature, explore new places and spend time with your child, especially if you are a full-time working couple. We make crazy memories."

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'Bhajji is an involved dad. He knows we're equally responsible for kids'

In 2008, British-born Bollywood actor ***Geeta Basra*** *jokingly told her then boyfriend Harbhajan Singh that she would marry him only if he claimed 300 wickets in Test cricket. The acclaimed spinner attained this milestone within days, and she kept her promise. Basra, who took a break after embracing motherhood in 2016, recently returned to the silver screen with the Punjabi film 'Mehar'. She spoke to* ***Sidhi Kapoor*** *about mom-guilt and the challenges of raising two kids*

What's the one thing that used to stress you out before kids that feels silly now?
When you transition into certain chapters of your life, you become more prudent. Earlier, I was young, restless and ambitious. Even now, I am ambitious, but not in the rat race. I am more content and happier with what I have. When you are younger, you stress about small things. After having a family, priorities change. That's how we mothers learn to balance our home, professional and personal life.

Did your parenting style change with your second child?
You go by the book with the first child. You don't want to do anything wrong. Everything is documented. With the second child, you are at ease and just going with the flow. Besides, both children have such different personalities. You can't expect the way of raising the first to continue for the second one. I have to be a very different mother with both kids.

Which of the two kids is more like you?
Hinaya (9) is very calm, reserved and sensitive, like a 'girlie girl'. Jovan (4) is very affectionate like me. I also love to express and show affection. Jovan will kiss and hug all the time. Both kids have traits from both parents. At the same time, I want them to carve their own identity. I want Hinaya to be so fearless that she can express her opinion in front of anyone. I want Jovan to be chivalrous, kind and empathetic.

You were raised in the UK and Harbhajan in Punjab. What's one tradition from your childhood that you consider non-negotiable for your kids?
Jovan was born in Mumbai. Hinaya was born in the UK. We never lost touch with our culture. On my birthday, we hosted a Sukhmani Sahib paath. We follow the spiritual path and we are very much in touch with our Hindu roots. But we also celebrate Christmas in a big way. We believe in tooth fairies and all things magical that I was raised with. Our traditions and festivities should not be lost while raising children.

What's the one piece of parenting advice you got that actually worked, and one that you threw out immediately?
I believe a discipline chart is important. One needs to follow a routine to channelise the energy of children. Having said that, each mother has her own way of raising children. Like in north India, kids usually take bath in the morning, but my children bathe in the evening after a massage. People used to keep asking why I do this and I had to explain that this helps them sleep peacefully. So, there are certain things I follow as per my belief and understanding.

Screen time is every parent's biggest struggle. How are you navigating it?
I am quite a strict parent. I don't give them screen time at all during weekdays. On weekends, they are allowed screens for a short while to watch a movie or something. They don't get gadgets during meal time either. My kids know rules are rules and they have to follow them, no matter what.

So, screen time is sorted in your case. So, what's your toughest parenting battle right now?
The age gap is a challenge. They have different interests and they fight a lot. Both are very attached to me and want my attention. Even in a flight, both want me to sit next to them. At bedtime, both want extra time with me. It is very hard as a parent to deal with this. Sometimes, I feel I should cut myself in two halves (laughs). But then you love those moments too. It's all about balancing during such times.

> I am strict, Bhajji is softer. We may be different as individuals, but when it comes to kids we are a team. It should not be if mum says no, they can go to papa

Tell us about your most difficult 'mom-guilt' moment and how you talked yourself out of it?
For five years, I never left my daughter alone. She used to accompany me for shoots. Once, I had to leave her for a month. It was very hard and emotional. When I am working, Bhajji is at home with the kids. I feel relieved that one parent is with them. It's also his time to bond with them. I want the kids to see that their mom is following her dreams and wants to achieve them. Moms should not let their passion or drive diminish. Obviously, I choose and pick what's important in terms of work.

Bhajji's been a rockstar on the field. What's his most underrated dad skill?
He is very good with the kids. I know some fathers don't spend quality time with their kids, but Bhaji is very involved. He likes to bathe the kids, play with them and spend quality time. We both have equal responsibility as parents, and he understands it so well. Kids understand that we both bring different things to the table. Both parents have to be present in the parenting journey to raise confident, secure children.

> Both kids are very attached to me and want my attention. Even in a flight, both want me to sit next to them. Sometimes, I feel I should cut myself in two halves (laughs)

Who's the stricter parent and who's soft?
I am strict and Bhajji is softer. I feel our techniques are different.

Do you both have differences when it comes to parenting decisions or are you mostly on the same page?
I am stricter about routine and discipline. There's no right or wrong when it comes to parenting. The fact that we are on the same page is what matters. As individuals, we may be different people but when it comes to kids we are a team. Kids are very smart these days and they pick up on small things. It's important for them to understand that parents are 'one'. It gives them a perspective. It should not be that if mum says no, they can go to papa. It doesn't work like that.

What does a typical Sunday look like in your home?
We do nothing! We don't step out unless there is something very important. I oil the kids' hair. We watch a movie, play games and relish aloo parathas. We are typical Punjabis and big foodies.

Paps, fan requests, stadiums — your kids are growing up around fame. What boundaries have you set to give them a normal childhood?
We make it a point to not over-pamper our children or give them extra luxuries. I know kids who go to school with bodyguards, but I don't feel the need for that. Our kids lead a normal life and do their own chores. When we go to the UK, they do things themselves as we don't have a fleet of nannies there and the kids realise that. I want them to be humble, not spoilt. I don't want them to get everything easily and served on a platter. Wherever we go, there are protocols to follow and the kids are aware of them.

Moms have to juggle many roles. Who is your support system?
Without Bhajji's support, I couldn't have done movies or travelled. Then there's my sister Ruby. When Bhajji and I have to travel together, then Ruby Maasi is there. My kids are very attached to her. My mom and sister-in-law are also very supportive. It takes a whole family to raise children. Kids also learn to respect elders. Family values are best instilled in a supportive setup.

If the kids have to describe you in one word or one sentence 20 years from now, what are you hoping for?
I want them to feel that mom is their best friend. They should be able to count on me for everything. Of course, the respect should be there. But at the end of the day, I want them to be comfortable with me so that they have my back and I have theirs.

Talking death over coffee and cake

From cafes and literacy festivals to doulas and yoga circles, people are finding newer, gentler spaces to tackle loss and end-of-life care

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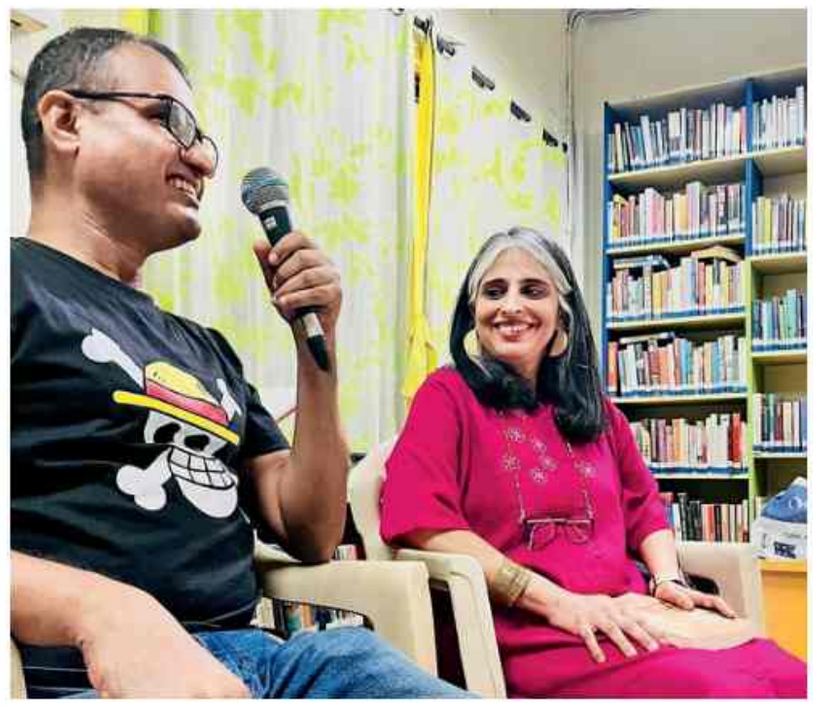

CIRCLE OF LIFE: People leave notes for their loved ones on the memory tree at the Death Literacy Fest while (top) author Minakshi Dewan discusses rituals and stigma around death at a book cafe

Conversations about dying and death are often met with awkward silence, dark humour or exhortations to "be brave and move on". For 54-year-old Viresh Kumar Sharma, the sage advice people gave after his son died by suicide in Nov 2023 only seemed tone-deaf and insensitive. Sharma's son was suffering from bipolar disorder and had attempted self-harm before. But nothing prepared the Patna-based banker for the grief ahead.

"Initially, I was in shock and that turned to guilt and pain. He was 23 years old and as parents we had done everything we could, putting in all our money and resources for his treatment," Sharma says. Therapy helped little. "On the surface, I had gone back to everyday life.... but I had slipped into depression," he says. This worsened, he says, till he joined an online grief support group for parents who had lost their children. "For the first time, I felt understood. A child's death is not like any other relative or family member's death. Only another parent understands what it means."

Sharma's support group is part of an umbrella of services that includes one-on-one sessions and peer support offered by online platform SoulUp. Its co-founder Mahak Maheshwari says the platform was born after realising the need for people to speak openly about grief and loss with others who understood.

Like SoulUp, several online and offline support groups, death cafes and bereavement circles over meditation, yoga or even a cultural festival, are encouraging people to speak more openly about loss.

The Supreme Court's March ruling on withdrawing care to Harsh Rana, who had lived in a vegetative state for 13 years, has started a discourse on end-of-life care, living wills and grief. Says palliative care advocate Harmala Gupta, "We are in denial when it comes to dealing with loss and death. Death carries a stigma fortified by people's reactions, who often view it as a curse or as a punishment for having done something bad. It is necessary to demystify death by talking about it openly, and by emphasising its inevitability." Minakshi Dewan, a death studies expert and author of the book 'The Final Farewell' says, "People are curious, but mainstreaming conversations around loss is difficult."

DEATH CAFES FOR CONVERSATIONS

"We are a death-denying culture," says Dr E Divakaran, director of the Thrissur-based Institute of Palliative Medicine. "If we understand that medicine can provide comfort in dying rather than think in binaries of 'treatment or no treatment', we can offer more appropriate care."

As part of the effort, the institute has hosted death cafes where people discuss death over coffee and cake. The concept began with Swiss anthropologist Bernard Crettaz's 'Cafe Mortel' in 1999 and was later popularised globally by London-based Jon Underwood in 2011 as an informal, agenda-free space to talk about death. While Indian cities have held death cafe meetings intermittently, Dr Divakaran plans to hold one every month starting April.

Vinod Krishna, who earlier ran workplace support groups, hosted a death cafe this Jan. The structure involves one person taking the lead to share questions that the group can contemplate over in a compassionate, no-judgement space. In these free sessions, participants discuss death, near-death experiences and intangible loss over tea and coffee. Krishna hosted a second session in April and plans to eventually add caregiver support, and legal and psychological resources.

BRINGING LEVITY TO LOSS

A five-year-old picked up a 'wind telephone' — where users can hold an imaginary conversation with a loved one who had passed on — to say 'Dadi, I miss your shahi paneer', while another used the 'memory tree' to pin notes for a departed loved one. These were some props and methods used by people to confront death at the Death Literacy Festival called 'Good to Go' in Bengaluru last year.

"We know how difficult it is to have the conversation. People don't have the vocabulary for it. We wanted to bring levity instead of morbidity to the space. Even with the name — 'Good to Go' — the thought was that if you can smile about it, you can engage with it," says Smriti Rana, Pallium India director-strategic communications. The festival organised by Pallium India and Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy included music and theatre performances, poetry sessions, and workshops that discussed subjects ranging from pet loss to living wills and digital death.

The festival will travel to Mumbai this year.

> People are aching to have conversations around death, but often don't have the vocabulary for it. That's why we called our death literacy festival 'Good to Go'. The idea was that if you can smile about it, you can engage with it. We wanted to bring levity, not morbidity, to the space
>
> **Smriti Rana,** PALLIUM INDIA

Rana says, "We realised that people are aching to have this conversation and it allows for catharsis."

REIMAGINING THE RITUALS

Krittika Sharma, founder of death literacy platform Maajhi, says, "I began to notice that while loss is universal, the way we approach it is often lacking presence, grace, and a sense of well-being." Her own experience at end-of-life caregiving and loss led to the platform that offers toolkits and workshops including grief coaching, grief yoga, and death meditation that help people build emotional capacity.

Krittika also introduced the idea of 'Death over Dinner' in India — bringing people together over a shared meal to have open conversations about death.

She says, "It shifts the conversation from something clinical or crisis-driven into something reflective and human, using the familiarity of food to soften a difficult topic."

Sharma says many participants initially fear talking about grief openly — "As though we are missing the right words, afraid of saying the wrong thing, or that speaking about it might somehow invite it into our lives" — but become more comfortable in the right environment.

GRIEF CIRCLES

Dr Sangeetha Suresh, who is incharge of the pediatric palliative care division at Pallium India, says parents of terminally ill children often withdraw socially and struggle with guilt around end-of-life decisions. "Parents of such sick children do not have any support. We help them deal with the complexity of illness while also creating memories," she says. This could mean indulging in the cheat ice-cream that the child is craving or taking videos of the last few days so that parents have memories to live with.

The group also helps speak about death to siblings who are usually ignored. Dr Suresh says, "The parents are so burdened by caring for the sick child that the sibling is left with extended family and told to pray for their brother and sister to become better. Then, when the child dies, the sibling is told he has become a star or a rainbow. For a young child, this can be very disturbing. We have seen instances of the sibling self-harming to become a 'star'. It is important to be honest with children and address their feelings of fear and anxiety as truthfully as possible."

Mumbai-based Zavher Chowdhury, 60, lost her mother in her 20s and spent years caregiving for other family members. "People say you need to be strong. In the support group, we learn that there is no need to be strong all the time. There is compassion for each other," she says.

Now training to be a grief doula, she is part of support group Grief Relief Circle, whose members regularly check in on one another over WhatsApp and one-on-one conversations. "We do exercises like 'kintsugi' which is the Japanese art of repairing. As part of that, I am putting together a photo album of old photos and reliving the emotions of anger, resentment that I felt over the past," she adds.

But is it enough? "Earlier, communities carried people through grief. Now, everyone is wrapped up in their own lives," says Bhavana Issar, founder Caregiver Saathi that provides support for caregivers. "The newer ways of grieving may not always be enough."

INQUIZITIVE

JOY BHATTACHARJYA

1 Talk show host Jimmy Fallon recently got his copy of the Pink Floyd album, Dark Side of the Moon, signed by four guests on his show — Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch and Jeremy Hansen. For what reason were these four people uniquely qualified for the request?

2 Where would you be visiting if you took a flight from Lima to Cusco, then the train to Aguas Calientes,

and then finished with a 25-min bus ride and a short walk?

3 Richard Attenborough, elder brother of naturalist David Attenborough, started trying to make which film in 1964 , and took 18 years to finally get it made, though it did win 8 Academy Awards?

4 Which popular South Indian dish, traditionally made with 13 vegetables was, according to legend, created by the warrior Bhima while serving as a cook in King Virat's kitchen?

5 The lyrics for the Paraguayan and Uruguayan national anthem are both written by poet Francisco Acuna de Figueroa. Which are the only two other countries that share a similar relationship?

6 Six of the 36 states or UTs of India have bicameral legislatures. Five of them are Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh,

Telangana, Maharashtra and Karnataka. Which is the sixth?

7 Which large waterbird, first seen in Australia, shares its name with a 2010 film starring Natalie Portman, and a hugely impactful event which comes as a total surprise — a term popularised by Nassim Nicholas Taleb?

8 Three South American teams have won the World Cup. Two of them are Brazil and Argentina. Name the third.

9 The Kushok Bakula Rimpochee Airport, named after a Buddhist monk who lived in a nearby monastry, serves which Indian city?

10 Which country has the world's largest population of bears, with over 200,000 bears of four distinct varieties, with the animal serving as it's unofficial symbol of the country for over three centuries?

ANSWERS

1 | They had just travelled and photographed the Dark Side of the Moon on the Artemis 2 mission.
2 | Machu Picchu
3 | Gandhi
4 | Aviial
5 | India and Uruguay(1930 and 1950)
6 | Bihar
7 | Black Swan
8 | Uruguay(1930 and 1950)
9 | Leh, the capital of Ladakh
10 | Russia
Bangladesh (Rabindranath Tagore)

The smart case for dumbphones

The old-school handset, with no internet and no apps, is making a comeback as users tire of doomscrolling and constant pings, fear privacy breaches

Shruti.Sonal@timesofindia.com

Image: AI

In times of grief, some people turn to community. Others withdraw from the endless stream of WhatsApp messages and phone calls. Vishal Agnihotri is of the second kind. After losing his mother to a rare neurological condition a few months ago, he knew some things: he didn't want to announce her death on social media, respond to exhausting family WhatsApp groups, or discard her SIM card.

Agnihotri found the solution in a Nokia 2660 flip phone with little beyond Snake and FM radio for entertainment. As the sole caregiver for his brother, who has Down Syndrome, the switch became a form of digital detox. "It really helped me take a step back from the emotional pressures around and the constant need for communication. It cut out a lot of noise, and the people who really wanted to connect with me did so via good old voice calls or SMS," says the 37-year-old freelance business consultant from Kanpur.

Agnihotri is part of a growing community of millennials and Gen Z users turning away from smartphones to find quieter communication, stripped of endless notifications and apps. Loosely referred to as 'dumbphones', these are older-style phones with non-touch displays, button keypads, limited internet access, and minimal apps. Once dismissed as outdated budget devices, they are being embraced by users looking to cut down on screen time, surveillance, and compulsive app use.

Even Blinkit has tied up with Nokia to sell dumbphones, many of which have sold out on the platform. Meanwhile, Reddit forums and Instagram reels are flooded with users seeking advice on how to move away from smartphones altogether.

The demand is such that an entire website called Dumb Phones India has sprung up, which calls itself part of "a growing movement for digital minimalism". While still niche, the revival is not limited to India. Driven partly by digital detox trends among younger users globally, the global feature phone (dumbphone) market was valued at $2.35 billion in 2024 and is expected to grow at a modest annual rate of 2.3% through 2031, according to Cognitive Market Research.

Vishnupriya Das, an anthropologist researching digital cultures, says a big part of the 'dumbphone movement' is about reclaiming agency: the power to pause and opt out of systems designed to keep us continuously performing, curating, maximising, engaging, and consuming.

There are both push and pull factors making this shift popular, she adds. "On one side, people are exhausted by doomscrolling, overstimulation, and the pressures of algorithmic life," Das points out. "On the other, there's a desire for presence, community, friendship, and being with others in a fuller way. So, this trend is not just about rejecting smartphones. It is also a yearning for connection," she says.

Going Off Radar

While digital fatigue might be the overarching factor, another huge concern is safety. As digital arrest scams, online fraud, location tracking and app surveillance increase, many are opting for dumbphones as a privacy tool.

Santosh Sharma, a consultant in the non-profit sector, gave up on his smartphone usage a couple of years ago because of the 'surveillance' that comes with using multiple apps. "Every app that I use wants my location and my personal data. I am not comfortable with that.... I realised that sharing my personal information with insecure servers is too big a compromise for my safety," says Sharma.

Despite his concerns, the father of two sons could not completely give up smartphones because of work-related WhatsApp groups. He still keeps one for work and personal calls.

However, the phone has no quick commerce, food delivery or ride-hailing apps. Since he lives in a small town and works remotely, Sharma says he manages fine without them, even in metro cities. For banking, he uses a dumbphone linked to accounts whose number is not listed on any public platform to avoid any hacking risks. He does not use UPI. "I have worked very hard on building wealth for my family and me to let anything happen to it," he adds.

TIME TO DISCONNECT: Vishal Agnihotri switched to a dumbphone after his mother's (in pic) death to move away from social media noise

Like Sharma, 40-year-old Vinay Reddy also uses two phones to protect his finances. His salary account is linked to his smartphone number, while the number connected to his savings accounts is used only in a Nokia dumbphone.

"I don't want to keep all my eggs in one basket. The burner phone that I use cannot be broken into and this gives me a sense of security about my finances," he says. A software engineer, Reddy says he got the idea to do this from his father, a retired electrical engineer who has never used a smartphone in his life.

For Agnihotri, on the other hand, a break from UPI is a welcome one. Having moved back to his hometown in Kanpur from where he now works remotely, he recounts ordering from quick commerce apps "almost five times a day" while living in Noida. "These apps, along with UPI, were eating up my wallet."

Now, he prefers buying groceries and veggies from a local market nearby, and mostly pays in cash. "I might sound old school, but I think there's a unique charm to the human interaction in walking up to a shop in your neighbourhood and physically buying fresh produce," he shares.

However, not everyone opting for dumb phones needs to give up UPI transactions. The Reserve Bank of India's UPI 123Pay Service enables transactions for users who don't have access to smartphones but have a bank account linked to their mobile number.

After The Smartphone Age

Despite the growing popularity of dumbphones, Das says the shift is only sustainable when the void smartphones have been filling are replaced by offline communities. "Social media and smartphones fulfil stimulation, novelty, connection. The human drive for this is important and should not be underestimated. If people step away from smartphones, the question becomes what will fill that space for them?"

Without replacement communities, she says, moving away from smartphones can become a cycle of withdrawal and return — much like deleting and reinstalling apps.

> Every app wants my location and personal data. Sharing that information with insecure servers was too big a compromise. I've worked too hard to build wealth for my family to risk anything. I manage fine without food delivery or ride-hailing apps, even in metro cities
>
> **Santosh Sharma,** NGO CONSULTANT AND DUMBPHONE USER FROM INDORE

Globally, phone-free parties, offline meetups, and back-to-analogue groups are making a push for this. Yet, the growing role of generative AI in workplaces and education complicates matters.

In the meantime, the rise in dumb phones alludes to a fracturing of the personal mobile device ecosystem itself, Das points out, with people using simpler phones for communication, laptops for AI-related work, separate devices for music, and smartphones only for needs like travel.

As Das sees it, perhaps the future of the phone is not about one device that does everything, everywhere, all at once. "We may be moving towards a more fragmented toolkit of devices with differing levels of connectivity."

— With inputs by ***Kritika Sharma***

BJP banking on old icons to cast new narratives

BY INVITATION

RONOJOY SEN

It was unsurprising that BJP rushed the swearing-in of Bengal's new CM — even as Assam will have the same ceremony next week — and held it on Saturday on Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary. BJP's sweeping victory in West Bengal was built on several planks. One was a marked shift during election campaigning to combat the idea of the party being an outsider or bohiragoto and hostile to Bengali culture and ethos. This was partly to challenge TMC's narrative that it was a party of the soil and defender of Bengaliness and Bengali pride. While this might not have really mattered to the masses, it probably did for some elites and the so-called bhadralok class. Much of BJP's positioning also had to do with assuaging fears that the party, if elected, would interfere in Bengali lifestyle and food habits.

During the campaign we saw the stereotypical symbol of Bengaliness — fish — become a potent weapon. In response to Mamata Banerjee's allegation that BJP, if elected, would not allow fish, meat or eggs, the latter pushed back aggressively. A few BJP candidates resorted to campaigning, holding up fish in both hands, while one filed his nomination papers clutching one. Even PM Modi, who is avowedly vegetarian, got into the act by accusing TMC of not making Bengal self-reliant in fish despite being in office for 15 years. The symbolism did not stop at fish. The PM's brief halt at a roadside stall during campaigning to eat jhalmuri (spicy puffed rice), a favourite street food, became viral to the extent that BJP supporters across India celebrated the party's win by having the snack.

During his victory speech, Modi, who has a penchant for dressing up to suit the locale and occasion, wore a dhoti and kurta. He used a few Bengali words, as he had done throughout the election campaign. Unsurprisingly, Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, the founder of the Jana Sangh, figured prominently in his speech as did a host of other Bengali icons such as Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Aurobindo Ghose and Subhas Bose. Tagore too found mention and Modi quoted from the poet's famous poem, 'Where the Mind is Without Fear,' to assert that a new era was being ushered in. Hence, holding the swearing-in ceremony on Tagore's birthday made political sense. One of the first things Mamata had done, after becoming CM, was to have Rabindra sangeet played from loudspeakers in Kolkata's streets.

However, just as Tagore lives on in the hearts and minds of many Bengalis, he is also someone whose ideas are at odds with Hindu nationalism. For instance, in the ongoing celebrations around the 150th anniversary of Bankim's Vande Mataram, Tagore's contribution in

CONTESTING CLAIMS: Holding the swearing-in on Tagore's anniversary takes on TMC's party of the soil pitch

giving tune to the song and popularising it has been noted. At the same time, its shortening, done at the behest of the Congress, has been likened by many BJP leaders to a division of the nation.

However, Tagore's critical role in shortening the song has been elided. When the Muslim League was protesting against Vande Mataram in the 1930s, both Nehru and Bose had written separately to Tagore to resolve the controversy. Tagore was aware of the Muslim sentiments against Vande Mataram and Bankim's novel, 'Anandamath', where the song occupies a critical place. Tagore's solution, which he conveyed in a letter to Nehru, was to keep only the first two stanzas. He wrote that the "spirit of tenderness and devotion expressed in its first portion, the emphasis it gave to beautiful and beneficent aspects of our motherland," could be separated "from the rest of the poem and from those portions of the book of which it is a part." Tagore, a member of the reformist Brahmo Samaj, noted that the poem's second part and Bankim's novel militated against his "monotheistic ideals." He suggested an abridged version that would not "offend any sect or community."

Yet another instance of Tagore's disagreement with one of the central symbols of Hindu nationalism was his unease with identifying the nation with the mother goddess. This was powerfully articulated in his 1916 novel 'Ghare Baire' set against the backdrop of the Swadeshi movement. It was during the 1905 protests that he had led a procession in the streets of Kolkata during the rakhi festival, singing one of the emblematic songs of the period before going on to tie rakhis to Muslims, including those inside the city's Nakhoda Masjid. In the novel, speaking in the voice of the progressive zamindar Nikhil, Tagore is unable to "accept the spirit of Bande Mataram" and to "worship" his country "as a god."

Tagore also had public but civil disagreements with Bankim and other contemporary intellectuals like Chandranath Basu over their interpretations of Hinduism and history, usually coming down on the side of reasoned interpretation. Much of this is either not known or is brushed aside by those who seek to appropriate Tagore and also those for whom he is a demigod. ■

Sen is a senior research fellow, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore

The award is going to help us to scale up, replicate the Chambal model

Nearly a decade ago, conservationist ***Parveen Shaikh*** *began working on protecting the flame-billed Indian skimmer, an endangered species of riverine bird found in the Chambal region which had dwindled to just 400. With the help of a community of 'nest guardians', Shaikh worked to increase the bird count, which has won her the Whitley Award or 'Green Oscars'. She speaks to* ***Shruti Sonal*** *about the efforts and the changing fate of rivers in the age of extreme heat*

FOR THE RECORD

What got you interested in the conservation of Indian skimmers?

When I joined the Bombay Natural History Society in 2012, I realised that I'd like to work on threatened bird species. I came across the Indian skimmer, and found it to be beautiful and unique, especially because of the shape of its bill. But when I dug deeper, I realised we know very little about it. There existed a lot of information gaps...why their population was declining, how the birds nested, and whether there was a problem in nest survival? That was one of the reasons I started work on skimmers, conducting my first survey on the Chambal River in Dec 2016. I realised that there was a loss of nests because of predation and trampling and there should be some intervention to stop this. That's when the idea of involving community members and experimenting with some protection or guarding scheme for the nests came up. Nest survival has nearly doubled since then, rising from 14% to 27% and bird count is over 1000, a direct result of community involvement and scientific monitoring.

What were the challenges when you first tried to involve the community?

Most community members that we worked with knew about ghariyals and magarmach, but they had little clue about the skimmer or what was special about it. However, they helped with patrolling of sites or just sharing their understanding of life around the river right from the start. Many of them also helped out as field assistants because it was a completely new territory for us. It was just before Covid hit that we thought of asking community members to form groups and protect the nesting colonies. The work could only begin in 2022. We convinced the community members that this would be a source of seasonal employment for them. The results weren't positive right from the start. It took patience and there was a lot of R&D that went in. In a couple of nesting colonies, more than 60% of the birds survived successfully by just guarding their nests and not letting any predator in. We then understood that this model has potential and could be scaled. Other challenges included heavy boat traffic, fishing activity, religious practices along the riverbank, sand mining and urban pollution that increases pressure on nesting colonies. We have also recently installed predator-proof fencing and GPS mapping for real-time monitoring of nests.

You now propose to replicate that model on other rivers, including the Ganga and the Yamuna. Will the award help in that pursuit?

The results from Chambal are quite good. The population shows an increasing trend. More than 90% of skimmer's global population breeds in India. And Chambal has a very large, significant population in the country. But there are other rivers also where there are bird nests, and they also have problems. We want to support this bird by protecting the most vulnerable nesting colonies from predation. The Whitley Award is going to help us to scale up. We also have support from the National Mission for Clean Ganga, and are planning to replicate some principles of the Chambal model, tailoring it for Prayagraj or other sites on the Yamuna River. At Prayagraj, the project will cover sites where birds face pressures from human disturbance, boat traffic, fishing, and pollution. Local guardians will be given incentives for their conservation service to provide a vital source of income while fostering stewardship.

How do extreme heat and climate change impact riverine ecosystems?

As our population increases, so does the demand for water. That brings rivers under pressure, and every year, several schemes for water extraction are proposed on them. One thing that's very crucial for riverine ecosystems is a minimal flow rate in the river, so that it keeps the rivers alive in order to support not only skimmers, but also other species like gharials, crocodiles, and turtles. Heat waves further endanger their survival. For instance, these heat waves clash with the peak hatching season of the skimmers, making it very difficult for the birds to survive. There is a very hot sandbar where they nest, and they have to keep cooling their eggs and chicks. If they are not able to do it and the temperatures are too high, these eggs will break, and the chicks will not survive.

There's concern about how massive AI data centers are going to exacerbate the water crisis. As a conservationist, do you propose any safeguards for riverine species?

We need to find a balance between requirements of people and those of other species. It's very difficult to do, but we really need to pour more efforts into finding out what the required minimum flow rate of rivers is, not only for the survival of skimmers but also for other species, especially during the peak summer season.

Char Dham tourism, and the need to balance economy with ecology

SWAMINOMICS

SWAMINATHAN S ANKLESARIA AIYAR

The Char Dham season has just begun. Religious tourism is exploding at the four Himalayan shrines of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri. Tourists to Badrinath increased between 2014 and 2024 from 1.8 lakh to 14.35 lakh, an eightfold increase. Tourists to Kedarnath rose from 40,800 to 16.52 lakh, a forty-fold increase, encouraged by PM Modi's highly publicised fondness for this Dham. But only slightly less explosive was the increase from 35,000 to 7.5 lakh for Gangotri and from 35,000 to 6.4 lakh for Yamunotri.

The Char Dham Pariyojana has facilitated this explosion. It is a Rs 12,000 crore project to widen roads and provide motorised access to pilgrimage sites. The state govt also plans ropeways to haul tourists over difficult stretches. Till now, tourists had to walk the final stretch from Gaurikund to Kedarnath. But a new ropeway will soon cut the nine-hour trek to a 36-minute ride. The huge rise in tourists is a great success for the state govt. India is a very religious country in which pilgrimage is a top spending priority of Hindu families as incomes rise. Uttarakhand gains financially from the boom, which is an important source of investment (in shops, hotels) and employment.

But enormous success inevitably has deleterious sideeffects. First, what used to be pilgrimage, with arduous uphill walking to seek salvation, has become mere tourism. Second, the environmental load on the four Dhams is becoming massive and poisonous. Something must give.

The Dhams are located on small alpine meadows near great glaciers. What used to be pilgrimage places have become massive picnic spots. The Himalayan heights are lovely to behold, a great tourist attraction. But other places are equally beautiful and have a much smaller human footprint, and so are better sites to develop from an ecological viewpoint.

Pilgrimage is encouraged by govt subsidies. The exponential growth of visitors to the Char Dhams suggests that in a few years each Dham may attract crores of visitors. Today, Vaishno Devi, the biggest Himalayan pilgrimage spot, attracts roughly one crore visitors per year. Access to Vaishno Devi is relatively easy — a train goes to Katra from where the pilgrimage begins. Access to Char Dham has historically been more difficult, and visitors correspondingly fewer. But new roads, ropeways, and helicopter flights threaten to increase visitors every year.

The limited space at each Dham is already covered with eating houses, tea houses, and lodgings. More visitors will mean an ugly overcrowded valley in place of the original beautiful Himalayan paradise. Solid waste disposal alone will become hugely difficult. Much human and food waste is currently dumped into the holy rivers. But a point will come when, to paraphrase a famous Bollywood song, "Ram teri Ganga maili ho gayi..."

Many global tourist spots are contemplating a ceiling on visitors per year. The most famous and successful is Bhutan, which not only sets an annual quota for foreign tourists but also levies a hefty fee for entry. We cannot levy a fee for entry into holy places but surely we can set a limit on the number of visitors. Since there will be an excess of applicants, we should have a lottery to determine the lucky ones who can enter.

In 1956, when I was just 13 years old, my mother took the family on a pilgrimage to Badrinath with a party of pilgrims from Sivananda Ashram, Rishikesh. The bus journey ended at Pipalkoti, and we had to walk four days to reach Badrinath. This was not easy for elderly people like my mother. But for the entire party of pilgrims the whole point of the pilgrimage was to strive mightily and be rewarded after four days of walking with the sight of Badrinath.

Can Himalayan tourism be reconverted to pilgrimage? Yes, by abolishing motorised access for the last 15-20 kms, and insisting that this should be covered on foot. The elderly can be carried on palanquins as in the old days.

A ropeway once built cannot easily be demolished. But surely further ropeways should be banned, and a quota set for ropeway travel each year. Char Dham tourism is very profitable for the state, which seeks to maximise visitors. But dharma and ecology cry out for a limit to this. We need annual quotas and compulsory walking for the final stretches.

Who can lead such a movement? The Shankaracharya of Badrinath will be the best, most credible candidate. He should surely be dismayed by the conversion of pilgrimage to tourism and the destruction of the alpine meadows. May he take the first step. ■

As voters become trolls, old friendships are poll-arised

BY INVITATION

SANDIP ROY

Ever since BJP ousted Trinamool Congress from office, social media has been up in arms.

A friend who opposed BJP is so upset, she is pruning her friends list of those rejoicing at the verdict. Friends who had never seemed political are suddenly posting mocking memes about Mamata Banerjee and posing in orange outfits. Everyone is reading between the lines of everyone else's status updates to see where they stand in the new order of things. Someone shared a picture of a Bengali television anchor and knowingly noted the colour of his tie. Someone accused someone of supporting bigotry because of what they posted. Someone accused someone of supporting bigotry because they posted nothing at all.

Retired civil servant Jawhar Sircar, who resigned after a brief tenure as a Rajya Sabha MP for Trinamool, said in an interview, "I have never seen such antagonism in an election before. There is so much hatred on each side." Bengal is famous for the tea shop adda, where everything from politics to football is discussed with furious passion but, at the end, all sides share cups of tea together. In the online world, there is furious passion but no shared cup of tea. "Voters and citizens have been acting like trolls," rued Sircar. "This trollisation of the voter is a new phenomenon."

VIRTUAL WAR: Politicians switch parties like jobs, but ordinary people have to bear the cost of social media outrage

I grew up on a street where three brothers who lived next door all vehemently supported different political parties. On Netaji's birthday, the brother who supported Subhas Bose's Forward Bloc always hung a giant portrait of Netaji from the balcony which belonged to another side of the family that supported the Congress. But CPI(M), CPI, Forward Bloc and Congress all seemed to live amiably enough in the same house. Now, we can barely co-exist on the same social media platform.

The difference is, these days we are fed an intravenous drip of 24x7 WhatsApp forwards, Facebook posts and Instagram reels. Social media algorithms keep delivering us the content it knows will feed into our sense of outrage and keep us hooked. It's like junk food for our ideological appetites.

This ideological polarisation gets more and more hard-baked in us, encouraged by the IT cells of political parties who keep feeding us information that will keep us in a state of perpetual ravenous frenzy while they practise business as usual.

So Raghav Chadha switches from Aam Aadmi Party to BJP as calmly as someone switching jobs, as if everything he once said about BJP is of no consequence anymore. Congress supports DMK but, once it loses, it seems happy to tie up with the winner, C Joseph Vijay's TVK. Mukul Roy, once regarded as the architect of Trinamool's victory in Bengal, switched over to arch-rival BJP in 2017 and took a parade of Trinamool office-bearers in his wake, all hoping their acche din was on hand. But Roy eventually returned home in 2021, and much of his retinue followed suit completely unembarrassed by the U-turns.

BJP's giant-killer in Bengal, Suvendu Adhikari, himself was at one time Mamata Banerjee's strongman. The ideologies of parties are supposed to be poles apart, but that doesn't stop them from poaching each other's top players as if they are rival football teams. The dust has not yet settled in Bengal but one can already sense some political leaders getting ready to change colour, so much so that Trinamool has set up a disciplinary committee to take action against leaders who speak against the party publicly.

Aaya Ram Gaya Ram has always been part and parcel of politics. The term itself dates back to Haryana in the 1960s, where one Gaya Lal changed his party allegiance thrice in rapid succession. It just shows that in the end, for many politicians, the real ideology they believe in is simply power.

The true loyalty to ideological beliefs is left to the citizens who put their faith in them. Old grand ideologies are supposed to be in decline in a post-Communist world, according to the famous essays by Daniel Bell which defined commitment to ideology as "the yearning for a 'cause' or the satisfaction of deep moral feelings."

That commitment and yearning might now be the preserve of those of us fighting on social media in the aftermath of an election. But even then, the real cost will as always be borne not by those of us unfriending each other on social media, or even those switching parties in the halls of power, but ordinary people caught in the crossfire of the Rams who are gaya and the Rams who are newly aaya. They are the ones with the bullet wounds, broken bones and burned homes. ■

WORD DROP

JOYSPAN

For a long time, tech bros and wellness coaches have focused on the importance of living a long life, with some like Bryan Johnson even pouring in billions to defy ageing. However, in the endless pursuit of productivity, longevity and self-optimisation, a new buzzword is asking a simple question: what's the point of living longer if you aren't actually enjoying life?

iStock

Enter joyspan, a trend that shifts the focus from lifespan and healthspan to the amount of joy, meaning and fulfilment one experiences over time. Coined by Kerry Burnight, it is viewed as an antidote to burnout culture. Unlike fleeting happiness driven by specific achievements and dopamine hits, it focuses on cultivating sustained emotional well-being through small, intentional acts such as nurturing friendships, embracing curiosity, and slowing down.

INBOX

DON'T COMPARE

Apropos of 'A Chinese robot...'(ATM, May 3), in today's age of AI, the comparison between humans and humanoid is irrelevant in a marathon and in life. The former runs for purpose and emotions, while the victory of the latter marks the technical prowess of humans.

—**Madhulika Debnath,** Kolkata

Email your letters to the editor at *sunday.times@timesofindia.com* with 'Sunday Mailbox' in the subject line. Please mention your name and city

BJP's Bengal win could pave the way for a Delhi-Dhaka reset

BY INVITATION

CONSTANTINO XAVIER

This week's historic BJP win in West Bengal brings a rare political alignment between New Delhi and Kolkata that could boost the connectivity agenda and help repair ties with Bangladesh. It offers opportunities for the state to emerge as an economic hub tied to Bangladesh, and to uplift the entire East South Asia region through new transportation and energy infrastructure linking Nepal and Bhutan, the northeast region, and the Bay of Bengal.

For years, the West Bengal govt remained largely absent as a policy driver to enhance India-Bangladesh economic interdependence. It remained either opposed or uninterested, claiming marginalisation. After vetoing the Teesta river deal in 2011 and only reluctantly supporting the Land Boundary Agreement in 2015, it became increasingly clear to New Delhi decision-makers that CM Mamata Banerjee was not willing to go out of her way to engage Dhaka. When Sheikh Hasina was in office, Kolkata could often be bypassed or ignored. But after her exit in 2024, this became unsustainable.

One example illustrates how Kolkata's political calculations hindered the bilateral connectivity agenda. In Oct 2024, home minister Amit Shah inaugurated India's largest and most modern passenger terminal at the Petrapole border with Bangladesh. This is South Asia's busiest land port and economic lifeline of bilateral trade, accounting for over 50% of total commerce. Coming just four months after Hasina's exit, the inauguration also sent an important signal to the Yunus-led regime: despite political differences, India would continue to build cross-border connectivity for mutual developmental benefits for the sub-region. Yet, aside from Shah and other dignitaries attending the ceremony, the state govt was conspicuously absent — no CM, no minister, not even a department head.

There will be many post-mortem narratives about the Delhi-Kolkata political tensions and partisan differences, but one thing is certain: in recent years, India's fourth-most populous state remained largely on the margins of the economic interdependence strategy being implemented with the world's eighth-largest country, right next door.

This week's political development is likely to alter that. It is particularly significant because it coincides with the change of guard in Dhaka, under a new BNP-led govt. Unlike Yunus, PM Tarique Rahman is both capable and willing to invest some of his political capital at home to normalise economic ties with India.

The state will also find new opportunities in Delhi, with PM Modi announcing a "new chapter" in bilateral ties. The appointment of Dinesh Trivedi as India's High Commissioner to Dhaka — with his vast experience in Kolkata — signals a clear commitment to repairing relations with Bangladesh, and giving the state a greater role through para-diplomacy. Assam exemplifies what can be achieved,

BORDER BONHOMIE: Easing visa, travel and trade curbs, and improving connectivity, can bear benefits for Bengal

as Guwahati has emerged as a sub-regional connectivity hub linking Bhutan, Bangladesh, and even Southeast Asia.

To normalise bilateral ties with Bangladesh, Kolkata's role will become increasingly significant and a few options stand out. The most important option is on water and joint river management, which would entail reviving the Teesta deal. Whether the Centre can deploy this as the mother of all confidence-building measures in Bangladesh will depend largely on how much political capital the new govt in Kolkata is willing to expend.

Second, India can unilaterally announce the lifting of trade restrictions and reinstitute the transshipment of export cargo from Bangladesh to third countries via ports such as Kolkata. This will benefit Bengal as an economic and maritime transit hub.

Third, India and Bangladesh must restart negotiations towards a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. Success here will hinge on the willingness of the state govt and industries to drop protectionist measures, especially non-tariff barriers, to allow Bangladeshi exporters greater market access.

Fourth, recent visa and travel restrictions can be eased with significant returns for Bengal: before 2024, Kolkata was the main beneficiary of over two million visas issued annually to Bangladeshi citizens, generating revenue for the tourism, health and education sectors. This growth-oriented mobility agenda will require smart governance solutions and decoupling from the politically charged immigration issue. A final option relates to the state's potential as a hub for sub-regional energy and transportation connectivity between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal. After decades of delays, in 2024, India finally helped operationalise the first trilateral power transaction from Nepal to Bangladesh. To sustain this momentum, the state will require massive investments to upgrade its road, rail, port, river, energy, and data links to form new multi-modal and economic growth corridors between Eastern India, Bangladesh, and the northeast states. The selection and sequencing of these measures will depend on cost-benefit assessments by all sides, though many obstacles remain. But the Bengal poll results offer the possibility of a double Delhi-Kolkata engine to accelerate India's connectivity strategy for Bangladesh. ■

Xavier is senior fellow, Center for Social and Economic Progress. Views are personal.

MAIDEN WC MEDAL FOR JADHAV

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Kolkata: Unheralded **Sahil Jadhav** fetched the first medal for India in the Archery World Cup Stage II in Shanghai by bagging a bronze in the men's compound event on Saturday. The 25-year-old Maharashtra archer finished on the podium in his third international tournament by beating Denmark's veteran Martin Damsbo 147-144 in the bronze medal playoff match.

Reigning World University Games champion Jadhav, who recorded his personal best of 711 in the ranking round to be seeded eighth, put up good challenge against his higher-

ARCHERY

ranked archers. He defeated teammate Abhishek Verma in the round of 32, Germany's Ruven Fluss in the pre-quarterfinals and edged past 2022 world champion and world No. 6 Nico Wiener of Austria in a shoot-off to make the semifinals.

However, he missed a final berth by falling short by just one point (146-147) against world No. 3 Nicolas Girard of France in the last-four clash. However, he made amends against 40-year-old Damsbo in his next match. Jadhav trailed by one point after the opening end as Damsbo made a perfect start shooting three 10s. However, the youngster showed great nerves to pull things back in the second end, shooting a perfect 30 to gain a three-point lead. He managed to hold on to that dropping just two points from his final nine arrows to seal a memorable three-point victory.

Vinesh mulls legal options

Federation Has Accused The Wrestler Of Several Breaches

▶ Continued From Page 1

Star wrestler **Vinesh Phoghat** has been asked by WFI to explain within 14 days from May 9, 2026 why disciplinary action should not be initiated against her. Vinesh's husband and former freestyle wrestler Somvir Rathi told TOI they are exploring legal options. "We have received the show-cause notice, and are consulting our lawyers. We will soon decide our future action," he said. It's been learnt that Vinesh has arrived in Delhi to consult her lawyers after receiving the notice.

Referring to a missed dope test dated Dec 18, 2025, which was notified by the International Testing Agency (ITA), WFI accused the two-time World Championships medallist and three-time Olympian of several breaches, including violation of whereabouts submission requirements under UWW Anti-Doping Rules 2015, acts of indiscipline and conduct "prejudicial to the interest of the sport of wrestling and the WFI."

"Please take notice that should you fail to submit your written reply in the stipulated period of fourteen days or fail to avail the opportunity of personal hearing if and when offered, the federation shall be constrained to proceed ex-parte and pass such order as it may deem fit and proper on the basis of material on record," the notice added.

Among the allegations levelled against Vinesh were her failure to make weight at the Paris Olympics, which led to her disqualification, alleged violations of the WFI constitution, anti-doping rule breaches arising from whereabouts failures, and participation in two weight categories — 50kg and 53kg — during the selection trials held on March 11, 2024 at NIS Patiala, allegedly in violation of UWW competition rules.

'ITA HAS RECORDED THAT VPHOGAT'S CONDUCT DID NOT GO BEYOND NEGLIGENCE'

New Delhi: Supreme Court-based lawyer Saurabh Mishra, who specialises in sports law and represents Indian athletes in dope-related matters in NADA and CAS, offered an explanation of charges brought up against Vinesh Phoghat by the federation.

On the whereabouts charge: "The ITA has recorded that Ms. Phogat's conduct did not go beyond negligence. Under Article 2.4 of the WADA Code, a whereabouts failure requires establishment of fault and the degree of fault directly determines the sanction. A finding of mere negligence, as opposed to significant fault or intentional conduct, substantially limits the sanctioning range available to the adjudicating body

On charge concerning retirement and return to competition: "This is a strict, non-delegable personal obligation. However, the critical legal question is whether Ms. Phogat ever formally retired within the meaning of Article 5.7 in the first place."

On the dual weight category charge arising from the March 2024 selection trials: "This charge raises a significant due process question — namely, whether an athlete can be held solely responsible for a procedural irregularity that was permitted and facilitated by the officiating officials and the ad-hoc Committee itself on the day."

On the Paris 2024 disqualification charge: The CAS ad doc division has already rendered a final reasoned Award in CAS OG 24/17. The extent to which a national federation can impose additional disciplinary consequences for conduct already adjudicated with finality by the highest sports tribunal is a legally contested question." TNN

Sreeshankar eyes 8.4m mark

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PTI

Chennai: Last year, long jumper **Murali Sreeshankar** had to compete in five events within a month in a hectic bid to qualify for the World Championships, a challenge he successfully overcame. However, this season, his calendar has been planned with a longer off-season, keeping the Commonwealth and Asian Games in mind and ensuring that he peaks at the right time.

The 27-year-old has made a good start to the season, winning two meets comfortably, and a three-week training stint in South Africa has helped him adapt better to

ATHLETICS

cold conditions, which could benefit him at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

"In India, most places are hot and humid, but when I compete at the Commonwealth Games, the conditions will be cold. I learned how to acclimatise to the cold climate in Potchefstroom, and during the competition in Pretoria (Simbine Classic), there was a strong headwind," Sreeshankar said on the eve of the Indian Athletics Series 6 here on Saturday.

"Right now, I am jumping in the 8.20m range, but from July onwards, I will have to clear beyond 8.40m to win a medal," he said. The Indian Athletics Series 6 will be the final domestic meet before the crucial Federation Cup, the final qualifying event for the Commonwealth Games.

Vignesh powers Wadiyar CC to comfortable win

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: **Sai Vignesh Srikanth's** (4/31 & 85 n.o) all-round show propelled Wadiyar Cricket Club to a six-wicket win against Swastic Union Cricket Club (2) in the KSCA U-16 inter-club tournament here recently. Opting to bat, Swastic were off to a disastrous start, losing three wickets for seven runs. A fighting 26 by Sai Rochan and a Karthik Rathod's 41-ball 46 helped them to 148 before being bowled out in the 35th over.

Wadiyar lost an early wicket, but Vignesh steadied the innings in the company of opener Yuvraj Kumar. Vignesh's unbeaten 85 came off 56 deliveries and included 14 hits to the fence and three over it. He anchored the chase in 22.5 overs.

Brief scores: Swastic Union CC (2): 148 all out in 34.5 overs (Sai Rochan 26, Kar-

U-16 INTER-CLUB

tik Rathod 46; Sai Vignesh Srikanth 4-31, Yashas Bongu 2-36) **lost to Wadiyar CC: 149/4 in 22.5 overs** (Yuvaraj Kumar 26, Sai Vignesh Srikanth 85 n.o, Pratham Rao 25; Krishna Sreekar 2-42). **Rajajinagar Cricketers: 260/8 in 50 overs** (Niranjan Ashok 47, Arnav Dere 93, Rajveer Mehta 27; Bhavin Francis 2-46, Cheran Raju 3-38) **bt Jawahar SC (1): 121 all out in 36.5 overs** (Shaurya Vinod 30; Raghav Vadher 2-22, Kushal KA 3-21, M Neeraj 3-17). **Jupiter Cricketers Association:** 118/5 in 28 overs (Akhib Syed 60; Varun Kaushik 3-12, Aditya Yadav 2-10) **lost to Herons CC: 123/2 in 15.3 overs** (Niraj V 27, Ninad Nagarkar 42 n.o, Jaswanth N 30 n.o). (Start delayed due to wet outfield, reduced to 28 overs per side). **Cavaliers CC: 108 all out in 38 overs** (Yashas Adiga 33; Samrudh Girish 2-22, Jash Karia 6-11) **lost to Cambridge CC: 111/3 in 14.1 overs** (Daiwik M 38, Swaroop H 29 n.o).

Mathikere CC: 104 all out in 31.3 overs (Yuvaan Porwal 2-35, Khrishay Reddy 3-28, Paarth Madan 3-3) **lost to Vijaya CC: 106/2 in 14.1 overs** (Saad Khan 4 n.o, Anjaney Gupta 41 n.o; Rishi Chetan Udeshi 2-41).

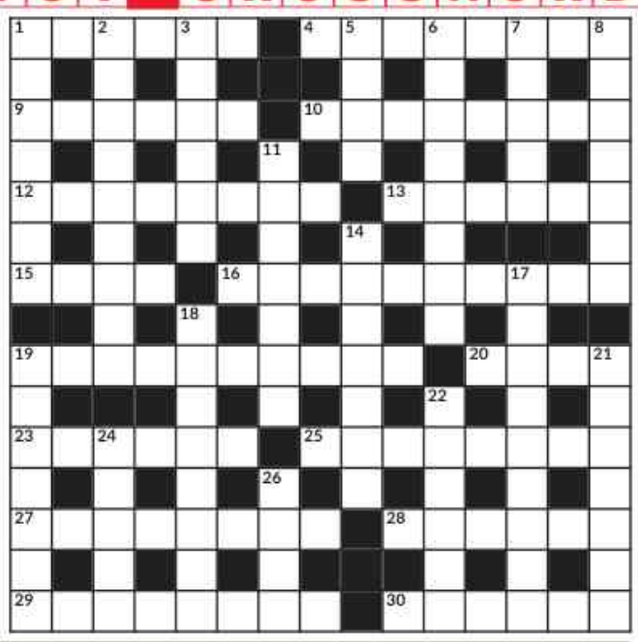
City Cricketers (2): 180/4 in 34 overs (Parthaan R 88, Sahas NP 49 n.o; Anirudh Katige 2-27) **lost to Malleswaram Gymkhana: 180/9 in 32.5 overs** (Chiranthgowda 66 n.o; Hithvik Reddy 4-29).

THE TOI CROSSWORD

CROSSWORD No. TCC#0271

The **TOI Crossword contest** is on a short break, but the crossword itself will continue to be featured in The Sunday Times of India, so that you can continue to relish the challenge every week. **Stay tuned!**

The Times of India CROSSWORD EVERY SUNDAY



CRYPTIC CLUES

Across
1 Times editor taken out (6)
4 Is inquisitive about the tank and soldiers (8)
9 Get out of bed (6)
10 Cut back solidified fish (8)
12 Note eye-catching gadget for pruning (8)
13 Stable form of electricity (6)
15 Wild rose - the symbol of love (4)
16 He has a habit of hoarding his wares (10)
19 Warmer in the main (4,6)
20 The expedition set off (4)
23 It may be carried on though bylaws forbid it (6)
25 Gave notice (8)
27 He may pass on what he knows (8)
28 Grubby residence (6)
29 Aggravates school head? That's not called for (8)
30 The significance of graven images out East (6)

Down
1 Be equal to change in uniform (7)
2 Occasional butt from goat following girl (5,4)
3 The eras of Cheops? (6)
5 One run scrambled for the overthrow (4)
6 Holiday with Virginia getting accountant into trouble (8)
7 Food and drink to someone (5)
8 I'd enter uphill races beside the motorcycle (7)
11 Doctor has to tell stories about dramatist (7)
14 Delighted when record rise took the pressure off (7)
17 Rejects tutors who spell badly (6,3)
18 Particular pieces muddled by a learner (8)
19 Coward and criminal come up in a sailing vessel (7)
21 They're too keen on minor details and burst into tantrums (7)
22 Lose a point at tennis and go for runs at cricket (3,3)
24 Record start of the event (5)
26 They may be placed but are best misplaced (4)

QUICK CLUES

Across
1 Renowned (6) 4 Announce officially (8)
9 A gamebird (6) 10 A sovereign's daughter (8)
12 First-rate (3-5) 13 A card game (6)
15 Bankruptcy (4) 16 Having achieved one's aim (4,3,3) 19 Killjoy (3,7) 20 To barter (4) 23 Sanity (6)
25 Aggressively enterprising person (2-6)
27 In point of fact (8) 28 Saunter (6) 29 Amount of business done (8) 30 Lack of interest (6)

Down
1 Combat aircraft (7) 2 Debatable issue (4,5)
3 Outcome (6) 5 Underdone (4) 6 Face up to (8)
7 Correct errors in (5) 8 The upper hand (7)
11 Description (7) 14 Evolve (7) 17 Forgo (2,7)
18 Land of golden opportunity (2,6) 19 Justify (7)
21 A culinary herb (7) 22 Repressed (4-2)
24 In pursuit of (5) 26 Depressed (4)

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD

CRYPTIC

S	H	E	R	B	E	T	■	C	O	C	K	P	I	T
E	■	Q	■	A	■	O	■	R	■	A	■	U	■	I
R	O	U	N	D	U	P	■	O	R	D	E	R	E	D
V	■	A	■	L	■	I	■	S	■	R	■	P	■	I
A	L	L	A	Y	■	C	A	S	S	E	R	O	L	E
N	■	L	■	M	■	■	■	B	■	■	■	S	■	S
T	R	Y	H	A	R	D	E	R	■	S	W	E	E	T
■	■	■	■	D	■	U	■	E	■	H	■	■	■	■
C	O	P	S	E	■	B	A	D	M	I	N	T	O	N
U	■	R	■	■	■	I	■	■	■	P	■	O	■	O
S	H	E	E	P	F	O	L	D	■	W	O	M	A	N
H	■	S	■	H	■	U	■	R	■	R	■	C	■	S
I	N	S	T	I	L	S	■	E	L	E	G	A	N	T
O	■	E	■	A	■	L	■	A	■	C	■	T	■	O
N	O	D	E	L	A	Y	■	M	A	K	E	S	U	P

QUICK

B	L	O	S	S	O	M	■	C	O	M	M	E	N	D
U	■	V	■	T	■	E	■	O	■	I	■	N	■	R
I	N	E	X	A	C	T	■	M	E	D	I	A	T	E
L	■	R	■	L	■	E	■	E	■	A	■	B	■	S
D	R	A	K	E	■	R	O	C	K	S	O	L	I	D
U	■	L	■	M	■	■	■	L	■	■	■	E	■	E
P	U	L	L	A	F	A	C	E	■	S	U	D	A	N
■	■	■	■	T	■	T	A	■	O	■	■	■	■	■
D	O	D	G	E	■	A	D	N	A	U	S	E	A	M
R	■	U	■	■	■	G	■	■	■	W	■	M	■	A
E	M	B	A	T	T	L	E	D	■	E	L	A	N	D
S	■	I	■	I	■	A	■	R	■	S	■	N	■	N
S	H	O	T	G	U	N	■	O	U	T	R	A	G	E
E	■	U	■	E	■	C	■	L	■	E	■	T	■	S
R	E	S	E	R	V	E	■	L	A	R	G	E	S	S

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WANTED BRIDES

MATRIMONIALS
WANTED BRIDES

VELAMA, 31, 178 cms, MS, Software Professional, Hyderabad. Looking for a likeminded match from any caste. Contact: 6366530312

VELLALAR, 26, 175 cms, B.Arch. Business class family. Looking for a suitable match from any equivalent community in India.ct:6366530308

BRAHMIN HOYSALA, 28, 170 cms, Engineer Non IT, Masters in Engg, Bangalore. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366530296

BRAHMIN IYENGAR, 31, 185 cms, B.Tech - EEE. Looking for a likeminded match from any Brahmin Community Contact : 6366530307

BRAHMIN IYENGAR, 41, 163 cms, Masters, Bangalore. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366530296

BRAHMIN IYER, 28, 182 cms, Masters, Businessman, Thrissur. Father is a Businessman. Looking for an amiable match. Ct: 6366530296

BRAHMIN Shivhalli, 27, 178 cms, Businessman, Masters, Bangalore. Family is financially well off. Looking for the match.ct: 6366530296

BRAHMIN, 28, 178 cms, Entrepreneur, Bachelors in Engg,USA.Looking for a likeminded match from Brahmin community. Ct: 6366530312

BRAHMIN, 31, 180 cms, Business Analyst, MBA, UK. Family is financially well off. Looking for a likeminded match. Contact: 6366530312

CASTE NO BAR, KAMMA, 46, 183 cms, MS, Software Professional, UK. Looking for a likeminded match from decent family. Ct: 6366530312

CASTE No Bar, Kshatriya, 32, 178 cms, Medical Professional. Looking for a likeminded match from good family background. Ct: 6366530312

EZHAVA, 29, 183 cms, Business Professional, B.Tech, Thrissur. Father is a Businessman. Looking for a suitable match. Ct: 6366530310

EZHAVA, 33, 168 cms, Teaching Professional, B.Tech, Kollam. Looking for a suitable match from Kerala. Contact: 6366530310.

EZHAVA, 35, 163 cms, Business Professional, Bachelors in Business from UK-Cherthala.Looking for a suitable match. Contact- 6366530310

KAMMA, 27, 178 cms, MS, Software Professional, USA. Looking for a likeminded match from similar caste from decent family. Ct: 6366530312

KAMMA, 31, 183 cms, Software Professional, Masters in Engg, USA. Looking for a suitable match from settled family. Ct; 6366530312

KAPU, 28, 170 cms, MS, Software Professional, Hyderabad. Looking for a likeminded match from similar caste. Contact: 6366530312

KAPU, 30, 178 cms, MS, Businessman. Looking for a likeminded match from any caste with good family background. Contact: 6366530312

BRAHMIN, 35, 180 cms, B.Tech, Businessman, Dubai. Seeking a suitable match from any Brahmin community. Contact: 6366530308

KONGU Vellala Gounder, 29, 178 cms, Masters in Engg, Chennai. Looking for a suitable match from any similar community. Ct: 6366530308

KURUBA, 27, 170 cms, Masters in Medicine, UK. Family is financially well off and lives in Mysuru. Looking for the match. Ct: 6366530296

LINGAYAT, 29, 163 cms, Bachelors, Entrepreneur, and family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366530296

MALA, 29, 180 cms, Masters in Medicine. Looking for a likeminded match from similar caste and good family background. Ct: 6366530312

MALA, 31, 180 cms, Bachelors, Business professional. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Looking for a likeminded match. Contact: 6366530312

MALA, 32, 178 cms, MS, Software Professional, Hyderabad. Looking for a likeminded match from similar caste. Contact: 6366530312

MALA, 32, 180 cms, MS, Software Professional, USA. Family is financially well off. Looking for a likeminded match from USA. Ct: 6366530312

MUDALIYAR, 32, 175 cms, MBA (IIT). Looking for a suitable match from any equivalent community in India. Contact: 6366530308

MUDIRAJ, 31, 193 cms, Bachelors, Medical Professional. Looking for a likeminded match from any caste. Contact: 6366530312

MUKULATHOR, 30, 183 cms, MS. Business class family.Looking for a suitable match from any equivalent community in India.ct:6366530308

NADAR, 50, 168 cms, Divorced, BE, North Carolina, USA. Looking for a suitable match and ready to relocate in USA. Contact: 6366530308

NAIR, 29, 178 cms, Business Professional, Bachelors in Law, Thiruvananthapuram. Looking for a likeminded match. Contact: 6366530310

NAIR, 30, 165 cms, Medical Professional, PhD, Singapore. Looking for a suitable match from India and Singapore. Ct: 6366530310

NAIR, 30, 170 cms, Doctor, MD, Pathanamthitta. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from Kerala. Contact: 6366530310

NAIR, 32, 175 cms, Business Professional, MBA, UK. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from Kerala. Ct: 6366530310.

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NAIR, 32, 175 cms, Medical Professional, MBBS, UK. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366530310.

NAIR, 33, 180 cms, Business Professional, MBA, Mumbai. Father is a working professional. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366530310.

REDDY, 29, 175 cms, MS, Software Professional, USA. Looking for a likeminded match from Reddy caste. Contact: 6366530312

REDDY, 33, 170 cms, Engineer, Masters in Engg, USA. Father is a Doctor. Looking for a likeminded match. Contact: 6366530312

VANIYA Chettiar, 26, 173 cms, Masters in Management, Salem. Looking for a suitable match from any similar community Ct: 6366530308

VANNIYAR Kula Kshatriya, 33, 183 cms, Businessman, Masters.Neyveli. Looking for an amiable match from similar community. Ct: 6366530308

VANYA Kula Kshatriya, 32, 170 cms, MS, Software Professionals, Germany. Looking for a likeminded match from any caste. Ct: 6366530312

NAIR, 32, 175 cms, Management Professional, Masters in Engg from USA. Father is a Businessman. Looking for a suitable match.Ct: 6366530310

VOKKALIGA, 27, 180 cms, Software Professional,Dubai Father is a Deputy Director at ISRO. Looking for a likeminded match. Ct: 6366530296

VOKKALIGA, 30, 180 cms, Entrepreneur, Bangalore. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366530296

VOKKALIGA, 35, 180 cms, Management Professional, MBA, Boston. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match. Ct: 6366530296

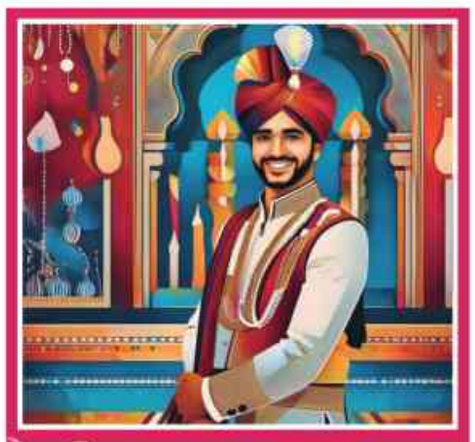
YADAV, 32, 180 cms, Medical Professionals, Looking for a likeminded match from similar caste with good family background. Ct: 6366530312

YADAV, 33, 178 cms, MS, Software Professional, USA. Looking for a likeminded match from any caste with good family. Ct: 6366530312

GOWDA, 33, 155 cms, PhD, Bangalore. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for the match. Ct: 6366530296

KAPU, 32, 175 cms, Divorced, Management Professional, MBA, Delhi. Looking for a likeminded match from OC community.Ct: 6366530312

KONGU Vellala Gounder, 27, 183 cms, BE, Businessman, Chennai. Looking for an amiable match from similar caste. Contact: 6366530308



WANTED GROOMS

ARYA VYSYA, 26, 160 cms, Software Professional, USA. Looking for a likeminded match from similar caste. Contact: 6366448338

ARYA VYSYA, 26, 163 cms, Software Professional, USA. Looking for a like-minded match from well-educated match. Conatct: 6366448338

ARYA VYSYA, 30, 162 cms, Entrepreneur. Family is financially well off. Looking a likeminded match from settled family. Ct: 6366448338

REDDY, 28, 163 cms, Entrepreneur, Masters in Management, USA. Looking for a likeminded match from well-educated match. 6366448338

EZHAVA, 25, 160 cms, Engineer, B.Tech, UAE. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from any location. Ct: 6366530311.

EZHAVA, 25, 167 cms, Consulting Sr Analyst, B.E, Australia. Looking for a likeminded match from Australia/New Zealand. 6366530311.

EZHAVA, 27, 158 cms, Software Professional, MBA, Kochi. Looking for a likeminded match from any location. Contact: 6366530311.

ARYA VYSYA, 30, 170 cms, Masters in Management, Hyderabad. Looking for matches from forward caste from India. Ct: 6366448338

BRAHMIN IYENGAR, 32, 155 cms, CA, PGDM, Bangalore. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match. Contact: 6366530297

BRAHMIN IYER, 30, 163 cms, PhD, Medical Professional, - Canada. Looking for a likeminded match from Canada. Contact: 6366530307

BRAHMIN Iyer,29, 165 cms, Masters, Bangalore. Father is an Industrialist and Family is financially well off. Looking for a match. 6366530297

BRAHMIN Iyer,29, 167 cms, Working professional,BE, London.Family is financially well off and lives in Chennai. looking for match.6366530297

BRAHMIN Madawa, 30, 163 cms, Software Professional, Masters in Management, Bangalore. Looking for an amiable match Ct: 6366530297

BRAHMIN Saraswat,27,160 cms, Sr Resident Doctor, Masters of Medicine, UK. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match. 6366530297

BRAHMIN, 29, 163 cms, Software Professional. Looking for a like-minded match from Brahmin family. Contact: 6366448338

BRAHMIN, 33, 168 cms, Masters, Dubai. Family is financially well off and lives in Bangalore. Looking for an amiable match. Ct:6366530297

CASTE NO BAR, 29, 163 cms, Entrepreneur, Bachelors, Bangalore. Looking for an amiable match from well settled match. Ct: 6366530297

CASTE No Bar, Arya Vysya, 28, 165 cms, Management Professional, UK. Looking for a likeminded match from Business families. Ct: 6366448338

EZHAVA, 29, 157 cms, Engineer, MS in Engg, UAE. Father is a Businessman. Looking for a like-minded match. Contact: 6366530311.

EZHAVA, 35,163 cm,Software Professional, M.E, Dubai. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from India/UAE. 6366530311.

GOUNDER Vanniyar Kshatriya, 25, 180 cms, MBBS, Working Professional, Dharmapuri. Looking for a suitable match. Ct: 6366530307

KAMMA, 25, 175 cms, Medical Professional. Looking for well-educated Doctor match from same caste. Contact: 6366448338

KAMMA, 27, 158 cms, Director of a Company. Looking for a likeminded match from Businessman families from any forward caste. 6366448338

KAPU, 23, 160 cms, Software Professional. Looking for a likeminded match from match from any forward caste and in Hyderabad. Ct: 6366448338

KAPU, 25, 165 cms, Masters, Business Analyst, Hyderabad. Looking for a like-minded matches from Hyderabad. Contact: 6366448338

KAPU, 28, 158 cms, Director of a Company. Looking for a like-minded match from Business families & any forward community. 6366448338

KAPU, 28, 165 cms, Software Professional, USA. Looking for a like-minded match from well-educated match from Kapu community. 6366448338

KAPU, 29, 164 cms, Masters, Family is financially well off. Looking for a like-minded match from a decent family. Contact: 6366448338

LINGAYAT, 29, 163 cms, Business Analyst, MS, USA. Looking for an amiable match from well settled match. Contact: 6366530297

LINGAYATH, 29, 163 cms, Sr Resident Doctor, Masters of Medicine, Bangalore. Family is financially well off. Looking for a match: 6366530297

MUDALIYAR, 27, 163 cms, BE, Working Professional. Looking for a working professional match from any location. Contact: 6366530308

MUDALIYAR, 27, 163 cms, BE, Working Professional. Looking for a working professional match from any location. Contact: 6366530308

MUDALIYAR, 29, 163 cms, MBA, Entrepreneur, Chennai. Looking for a match from any equivalent community. Contact: 6366530307

MUDALIYAR, 34, 168 cms, BE, Chennai. Father is a Film Distributor. Looking for a suitable match from the same community. Ct: 6366530307

NAIDU, 32, 175 cms, Working Professional, Hyderabad. Family is financially well off. Looking for a likeminded match. Contact: 6366448338

NAIR, 26, 163 cms, Banking Professional, Masters in International Business, Coimbatore. Looking for a like-minded match. 6366530311

NAIR, 27, 168 cms, Law Professional, LL.M. in Dubai, Parents are Business professionals. Looking for a suitable match . Ct: 6366530311.

NAIR, 29, 163 cms, Medical Professional, MBBS, Pursuing MD, Salem. Looking for a suitable match from any country. Contact: 6366530311.

NAIR, 34, 163 cms, Medical Professional, Pursuing Masters, Mavelikkara. Looking for a suitable match from Kerala. Contact: 6366530311.

REDDY, 29, 158 cms, Software Professional, USA. Looking for a like-minded match from similar caste. Contact: 6366448338

REDDY, 30, 160 cms, Divorced, Software Professional, Hyderabad. Looking for a suitable match from Reddy community. Ct: 6366448338

SHETTY BALLIA, 34, 164 cms, Doctor, Hyderabad. Family is financially well off. Looking a likeminded match. Contact: 6366448338

VANNIYAR Kula Kshatriyar, 30, 165 cms, Medical Professional, MS, Chennai. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366530308

VOKKALIGA, 25, 165 cms, Software Professional, Bangalore. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match. Ct: 6366530297

EHAVA, 37,163 cms,Medical Professional,BHMS,Thiruvananthapuram.Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match.Ct:6366530311

KAMMA, 30, 165 cms, Counselling Psychologist. Looking for a likeminded match from Business families . Contact: 6366448338

KONGU Vellala Gounder, 24, 158 cms, MS, Software Professional, New Jersey. Looking for a match from same caste from USA.ct:6366530307

KONGU Vellala Gounder, 29, 170 cms, Working Professional, Chennai. Looking for a match from an equivalent community. Ct: 6366530307

KONGU Vellala Gounder, 30, 165 cms, Entrepreneur, BE, Salem. Looking for a suitable match from well settled. Contact: 6366530308

MUDALIYAR, 29, 163 cms, Business Administration Professional, USA. Looking for a match from good family from USA. Ct: 6366530307

"THIS PROFILES ARE FROM ELITE MATRIMONY"

TODAY'S FACE-OFF
RCB VS MI
TV TIME 7:30 PM
STAR SPORTS / JIOHOTSTAR

PLAYED 35
Won by RCB 16 (45.72%)
Won by MI 19 (54.28%)

LAST FIVE MATCHES
RCB L L W W L
MI W L L L W

VENUE: RAIPUR
ODDS
RCB 8/10
MI 11/10

IPL 2026

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—Ajinkya Rahane | KKR Captain

THE GILL & RASHID SHOW

Opening Stand Powers GT to 229/4 Before Star Afghan Spinner & Holder Get Into The Act To Bowl Royals Out for 152

Mandakini.Shalya@timesofindia.com

Jaipur: Rajasthan Royals did not so much lose the chase as surrender it in instalments. Set 230 after Shubman Gill and Sai Sudharsan had laid waste to their attack, Royals folded for 152 in 16.3 overs at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium on Saturday, handing Gujarat Titans a 77-run win and a significant lift in the playoff race.

This was the same Royals side that had edged Titans by six runs in Ahmedabad earlier in the season. Here, under the squeeze of the business end, they looked a team with cold feet. There was a brief blaze from Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Dhruv Jurel, but once Rashid Khan entered the game, the chase unravelled quickly.

RR were not short of intent at the start. Sooryavanshi, brought in as 'impact player', smashed 36 off 16 balls to give the innings early life.

But Mohammed Siraj had him caught in the third over and Kagiso Rabada removed stand-in captain Yashasvi Jaiswal for three runs soon after. By the time Rabada also accounted for Shimron Hetmyer, the Royals were 68/3 in 5.4 overs despite the run-rate.

Jurel briefly changed the mood with 24 off 10 balls but Rashid found his range immediately. A googly breached Jurel in the eighth over and, two balls later, Donovan Ferreira was beaten by a leg-break. The Royals' Powerplay gallop of 78/3 had become 91/5 by the end of the eighth.

Ravindra Jadeja tried to stretch the contest with 38 off 25 balls but Rashid returned to bowl Shubham Dubey and trap Jadeja LBW, finishing with 4/33. Jason Holder then cleaned up the lower order with 3/12 as Royals collapsed with 21 balls unused.

Earlier, Titans openers made Royals pay for choosing to bowl first. Gill and Sudharsan stitched together 118 in 65 balls, their partnership headlined by an 82-run Powerplay. Gill's 84 off 44 balls was all timing and command. Sudharsan's 55 off 36 carried the same quiet efficiency that has made him one of Gujarat's most reliable run-makers.

Jofra Archer set the tone for RR's indiscipline. His opening over lasted 11 balls — equalling the longest-over mark in the IPL — and went for 18, full of wides, a no-ball and overthrows. Archer finished with a poor 0/46 from his three overs.

462 Shubman Gill's run-aggregate at an average of 46.2, including four fifties in 10 innings, is his second highest as captain in an IPL season. For the third time, he has scored 400+ runs as captain for GT.

3 Successive seasons in which Sai Sudharsan has scored 400+ runs — 527 runs (ave 47.9) in 2024; 759 (ave 54.21) in 2025 & 440 (ave 40) in 2026.

PTI

DYNAMIC DUO: Sai Sudharsan and Shubman Gill in Jaipur on Saturday

SCOREBOARD

GT: S Sudharsan c Archer b Y Punja 55, S Gill c Deshpande b B Sharma 84, J Buttler c Ferreira b Jadeja 13, W Sundar not out 37, J Holder c Jaiswal b B Sharma 7, R Tewatia not out 14. **Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-1, w-16) 19; Total: (for 4 wkts) 229; FoW:** 1-118, 2-150, 3-185, 4-205; **Bowling:** J Archer 3-0-46-0, T Deshpande 4-0-52-0, B Sharma 4-0-47-2, Y Punja 4-0-37-1, R Jadeja 4-0-34-1, D Ferreira 1-0-11-0.

RR: Y Jaiswal c Sindhu b Rabada 3, V Sooryavanshi c Arshad b Siraj 36, D Jurel b Rashid 24, S Hetmyer c Holder b Rabada 6, R Jadeja lbw b Rashid 38, D Ferreira b Rashid 4, S Dubey b Rashid 15, D Shanaka c Gill b Holder 16, J Archer c Buttler b Holder 5, T Deshpande c Sundar b Holder 1, B Sharma not out 1; **Extras: (lb-1, w-2) 3; Total: (16.3 ovrs) 152; FoW:** 1-38, 2-40, 3-68, 4-87, 5-91, 6-115, 7-136, 8-141, 9-151, 10-152; **Bowling:** Siraj 4-0-55-1, Rabada 3-0-33-2, Kishore 1-0-8-0, Rashid 4-0-33-4, Sundar 2-0-10-0, Holder 2.3-0-12-3.

Result: GT won by 77 runs

MOST CENTURY STANDS IN THE IPL

Pair	For	I	NO	Runs	HP	Ave	100	50	RR
AB de Villiers/Virat Kohli	RCB	76	5	3123	229	43.98	10	11	9.34
Chris Gayle/Virat Kohli	RCB	59	6	2787	204*	52.58	9	12	8.88
Sai Sudharsan/Shubman Gill	GT	43	1	2578	210	61.38	9	11	9.6

HOW THEY STAND

TEAM	M	W	L	NR	NRR	P
SRH	11	7	4	0	0.737	14
GT	11	7	4	0	0.228	14
PBKS	10	6	3	1	0.571	13
RCB	10	6	4	0	1.234	12
RR	11	6	5	0	0.082	12
CSK	10	5	5	0	0.151	10
KKR	10	4	5	1	-0.169	9
DC	11	4	7	0	-1.154	8
MI	10	3	7	0	-0.649	6
LSG	10	3	7	0	-0.934	6

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Allen powered by changed perspective

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New Delhi: Finn Allen carries the reputation of being the most destructive batter to have come out of New Zealand after Brendon McCullum. Franchise leagues covet him. A six-hitting machine, he holds the men's T20 record for most sixes in an innings — 19 for San Francisco Unicorns in Major League Cricket.

Despite earning his maiden IPL contract with Royal Challengers Bengaluru in 2021, the 27-year-old waited five years for his league debut. Even in Kolkata Knight Riders' purple and gold this season, it took until his seventh innings to be his attacking best.

At the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Friday night, Delhi Capitals had little answer. KKR restricted the hosts to 142/8 despite Pathum Nissanka's 50 and Ashutosh Sharma's 39. Allen then made light of the chase, his 100 not out off 47 balls carrying KKR to 147/2 in 14.2 overs and an eight-wicket win.

Studded with ten sixes and five fours, it was a clinical display of power hitting. It resembled Allen's unbeaten 33-ball century against South Africa at the Eden Gardens in the T20 World Cup semifinal just a couple of months ago.

He had failed to kick on from that high, though, warming the bench after three successive single-digit scores midway through this IPL. Introduced here as KKR's 'impact sub', Allen admitted the break helped him reassess. "Sometimes, being left out changes your perspective. It allows time for mental refresh. I was putting on too much pressure on myself at the start," said Allen.

The ease of his knock might suggest a batting paradise. It was not. Most batters struggled with the tacky surface, and KKR were 31/2 in the Powerplay. Allen showed he can stay aggressive on challenging tracks, reaching out to fuller deliveries and sending them straight over the ropes while the shorter balls were pulled towards mid-wicket and wide long-on with ease.

"I wanted to keep my intent. We lost a couple early. I knew that I had to take a bit of responsibility and bat a bit deeper. It helped me get into better positions," added Allen.

"Finn was exceptional today. He's got off to amazing starts. He's one of the best in the world at doing that and putting pressure back on," said Cameron Green.

Jatin Kumar

TODAY'S FACE-OFF
CSK VS LSG
TV TIME: 3.30 PM
STAR SPORTS
JIOHOTSTAR

HEAD TO HEAD

CSK	LSG
3	3

LAST FIVE MATCHES
CSK W W L W L
LSG W L L L L

VENUE: CHENNAI
WEATHER 33°C

Revived Super Kings look to press on

Hosts Eye Third Straight Win As Super Giants Cling To Slim Playoff Hopes

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Chennai: CSK are riding the winds of change. After beginning the season with three straight defeats, they have stitched together back-to-back wins to pull themselves into playoff contention with 10 points from 10 games.

Even bottom-placed Lucknow Super Giants, on six points from 10, are not out of the race mathematically, improbable as it may look. They need to win their remaining four matches and hope other results fall their way.

When the teams meet at MA Chidambaram Stadium on Sunday afternoon, the stakes will be unforgiving.

For CSK, victory can give their late push real weight. For LSG, another slip could leave their campaign at the exit door. The immediate question is whether Lucknow's newly-settled batting unit can withstand the heat of a CSK attack that has found rhythm at just the perfect time.

After weeks of playing musical chairs with their batting XI, LSG appear to have found some stability. Mitchell Marsh rediscovered his destructive touch with a spectacular hundred in their rain-hit win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Skipper Rishabh Pant and Nicholas Pooran, both searching for fluency, chipped in with brisk cameos too.

Their bigger test, though, will be against a disciplined CSK bowling unit. Anshul Kamboj, the season's joint-leading wicket-taker, has led the pace group with clarity while Jamie Overton, Mukesh Choudhary and Gurjapneet Singh have supplied energy and bite. In CSK's clinical win over Delhi Capitals in their previous outing, the bowlers restricted the hosts to 155/7 before Sanju Samson finished the chase with authority.

AP

SANJU SAMSON

ODDS
CSK 7/10
LSG 5/4

RCB eye reset against MI

Jitesh Sharma's Slump Among Major Concerns For The Defending Champions

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Raipur: After a strong start to their IPL title defence, winning four of their first five matches, Royal Challengers Bengaluru have hit a rough patch at a crucial stage of the tournament. With the playoff race intensifying, RCB have lost three of their last five games, raising concerns over their momentum midway through the season.

With four league matches left, skipper Rajat Patidar and his men will need to iron out their flaws when they take on Mumbai Indians here on Sunday. While the bowling unit has looked inconsistent, a bigger concern has been the alarming dip in form of wicketkeeper-batter Jitesh Sharma.

PREVIEW

The 32-year-old was one of the vital cogs in RCB's title-winning run last season, thriving in the finisher's role with remarkable composure and aggression. But the script has changed dramatically this year. In 10 matches, Jitesh has managed only 64 runs at a dismal average of eight, with a highest score of 23. The numbers stand in stark contrast to his 2025 campaign, when he amassed 261 runs at an average of 37.20 and a strike rate of 176.35.

His repeated failures under pressure have now raised doubts over the game awareness that once defined his finishing abilities. More worryingly, fast bowlers have exposed his struggles — he has been dismissed by pacers seven times in eight innings while scoring just 28 runs against them. Even an old remark of his — "I always pray to God for the top order to collapse so I can bat and score" — has resurfaced uncomfortably amid his poor run. So far this season, he has failed to close out games when RCB needed him most.

With the business end of the tournament approaching, RCB desperately need their wicketkeeper-batter to snap out of this slump.

It is not just Jitesh, though. RCB's batting unit as a whole has looked shaky in recent outings. They struggled to adapt to a sticky surface in Ahmedabad before suffering a meek defeat to Lucknow Super Giants. With Phil Salt still sidelined through injury, another weak link has emerged in his replacement, fellow Englishman Jacob Bethell. In four innings, Bethell has returned scores of 14, 20, 5 and 4, placing additional pressure on opener Virat Kohli, the in-form Devdutt Padikkal and skipper Patidar.

Mumbai, ninth with six points from 10 matches, are still mathematically alive but have little room left. But they pose a stern test for RCB, especially after they have shown signs of their old firepower while chasing down 228 against Lucknow Super Giants last week. That effort was driven by a blistering 84 from Rohit Sharma. Rohit and Ryan Rickelton are expected to test RCB's new-ball pair of Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Josh Hazlewood.

Hardik Pandya will miss the game because of a back spasm, with new-dad Suryakumar Yadav set to lead again after rejoining the squad.

Meanwhile, all eyes remain on the weather after sudden showers disrupted training at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium. With the Raipur surface still largely unfamiliar territory, RCB will hope their top order fires early.

But heading into the contest, the biggest question remains whether Jitesh can reverse this worrying trend before it is too late.

Pics: TOI/PTI

MAIN MEN: Skipper Rajat Patidar and southpaw Devdutt Padikkal will have a crucial role to play against MI

WEATHER 34°C

29 Jasprit Bumrah, with 29 wickets at 21.24 in 21 matches is the leading wicket-taker for MI vs RCB.

215 An unbroken match-winning partnership between AB de Villiers and Virat Kohli for the second wicket at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai on May 10, 2015 remains the highest partnership for RCB for any wicket vs MI.

—**Stats:** Rajesh Kumar

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Raipur: After suffering back-to-back defeats, Royal Challengers Bengaluru will be desperate to return to winning ways when they take on former champions Mumbai Indians here on Sunday.

Set to host two matches at their adopted home venue against Mumbai and Kolkata Knight Riders, RCB head into the contest with limited knowledge of the conditions.

With Mumbai having arrived in Raipur earlier, RCB, whose training session on Saturday was disrupted by rain, will need to adapt quickly as the tournament enters its decisive phase.

RCB opener **Jacob Bethell** said quick adaptation to the conditions would be key for the defending champions.

"This is our home away from home now. Mumbai has had a couple of days here, but I don't think that makes a huge difference. We are a confident team, and I think we are going to adapt pretty well," Bethell said at the pre-match press conference.

However, sudden showers delayed RCB's practice session before another spell of rain forced the players off the ground, cutting training short.

The England batter insisted that despite the consecutive losses, the Bengaluru side was not dwelling too much on the setbacks and was instead focused on moving forward.

"There is no shying away from the fact that we have lost two games in a row. We have reflected on them, and there are areas where we were not at our best. But the only thing that matters now is being present for that first ball in the next game. If we can do that and adapt quickly, our best is very good, and we have got more than enough in the dressing room to walk away with four points here," Bethell added.

Bethell himself has endured a difficult run. With opener Phil Salt sidelined through injury, the 22-year-old has struggled for runs since coming into the side.

"I have not got off to the start that I would have wanted in this tournament, but the only game that matters is the one tomorrow. I never really feel like I am fighting for a spot. It is more of a hunger to contribute to the team.

"It does not feel good when you are not contributing, and there is definitely a burning desire to go out there and put in a match-winning performance," Bethell signed off.

Bethell hopeful of turnaround

LOOKING AHEAD: Royal Challengers Bengaluru will have to find their winning mojo at their second home in Raipur

Under Arun's guidance, Prince making a mark

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Chennai: During their clash against Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Thursday, Lucknow Super Giants right-arm pacer **Prince Yadav** produced a 140.4kph delivery that nipped back sharply and went through the gate to crash Virat Kohli's off stump. It was Kohli's first IPL duck since 2023 and he was left visibly stunned.

LSG's bowling coach Bharat Arun said such a delivery is not a matter of chance but of persistence and craft. "We even spoke about it with Kohli, and he asked, 'How did he bowl that ball?' because it's not a very common delivery. I don't think any bowler can produce it at will, but if you consistently work on your swing, it becomes possible. It was a dream delivery," Arun said on the eve of the LSG's encounter against Chennai Super Kings here.

This is the 24-year-old Delhi boy's second IPL season. Last year, he played six games for LSG, picking up three wickets at an economy of 9.75. Arun said Prince had shown glimpses of what he could achieve in his debut season.

"This year during the camps that we had, we discussed his strengths. Under pressure, sometimes a bowler goes blank, but the one who is confident of executing his strengths is going to be most successful in execution. So, we had a lot of one-on-one chats during the pre-season camps, understood what their strengths are, and went about working on them. We challenged them every single session on execution," he added.

Arun said his role was to help the youngsters build confidence and tell them where they need to improve. "It would be unfair to say I spotted Prince. But identifying what he could do by looking at him and placing him in the right role within the team was my challenge. It is also about building the bowler's confidence, helping him understand what he can do and working on that to get the best out of him. So yes, we had a lot of discussions and he has worked very hard on his strengths," explained Arun.

Yashasvi, Shafali get NADA notices

Indian cricketers Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shafali Verma have been issued notices by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) for not being available for scheduled dope tests last year, leading to their first whereabouts failure. It is reliably learnt that the two players, who are a part of the NADA's Registered Testing Pool (RTP), did not explain the reasons for the missed tests, leading to the notices. "Notices have been issued to the concerned athletes, and the same has been intimated to the national federation (the BCCI) and the ICC," a well-placed source told PTI, even though NADA declined comment, citing confidentiality of the procedure.

On being contacted, a BCCI source also confirmed the development.

"Yes, we have received notification from NADA on missed tests. We will check with them as to how it happened, and will take necessary steps so that such things do not happen in the future.

"Cricket is back in the Olympics and we need to adhere to all the protocols so that everything goes on smoothly," the BCCI source said, referring to cricket's inclusion in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games roster.

GALLERY

Abbas takes fifier for Pak

Pakistan clawed back into the first Test against Bangladesh on stellar performances by pacer **Mohammad Abbas** and opener Azan Awais in Dhaka. Bangladesh began Day 2 at 301/4 and tried to extend its domination, but Abbas' sensational 5-92 dismissed the hosts for 413. Azan, who made his international debut with this match, hit an unbeaten 85 to steer Pakistan to 179-1 at stumps on Saturday. Fellow debutant Abdullah Fazal was on 37. Azan and his senior opening partner Imam-ul-Haq, showed resolve in negating the early threat of Bangladesh pacers and put on a century stand. Off-spinner Mehidy Hasan gave Bangladesh the only success by trapping Imam-ul-Haque leg-before for 45, ending the 106-run opening stand.

Brief scores: Bangladesh (o/n: 301/4) 413 all out in 117.1 overs (Mohammad Abbas 5-92, Shaheen Afridi 3-113) vs **Pakistan 179/1 in 46 overs** (Azan Awais 85 batting, Imam-ul-Haq 45, Abdullah Fazal 37) . AGENCIES

Gurpreet stands tall in BFC win

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On a night when India's talismanic footballer Sunil Chhetri became the most-capped Indian Super League player with 195 appearances, it was his long-time teammate Gurpreet Singh Sandhu who turned back the clock with a goal-keeping masterclass as Bengaluru FC edged hosts Jamshedpur FC 1-0 at the JRD Tata Sports Complex on Saturday.

Jamshedpur, looking to stay in contention for the title,

ISL

went on the offensive from the outset but simply could not find a way past Gurpreet. Ryan Williams' goal in the 38th minute eventually proved enough to hand Bengaluru the win and inflict Jamshedpur's first home defeat of the season.

With the victory, Bengaluru FC climbed to fourth place with 20 points from 12 matches, while Jamshedpur slipped to third with 21 points and are now almost out of the title race. Earlier, Jamshedpur FC began brightly and registered their first shot on goal in the 15th minute when Madih Talal set up Messi Bouli for a long-range effort that failed to trouble Gurpreet.

A few minutes later when Rosenberg Gabriel delivered the ball from the right towards the penalty area in the hope that Mohammed Sanan would latch on to it, the India goalkeeper dived forward to collect it at the second attempt.

Undeterred, Jamshedpur continued to dictate terms and earned a free kick on the left flank after Bouli was fouled by Rahul Bheke. However, Pratik Chaudhari's effort from Talal's delivery was ruled offside. The match slowly turned on its head thereafter, with Williams going close on a couple of occasions before the hosts managed to keep him at bay. He, however, had the last laugh in the 38th minute when he struck with his right foot.

ON TARGET: Ryan Williams (centre) scored the winner for BFC

CHELSEA END LOSING RUN

Liverpool Booed After Stalemate at Anfield; United Held

London: Liverpool failed to wrap up Champions League qualification as they were held to a 1-1 draw by visitors Chelsea on Saturday, with Bournemouth moving into sixth place with a 1-0 victory at Fulham in which both sides ended with 10 men.

Brighton & Hove Albion also boosted their hopes of qualifying for Europe as they beat bottom club Wolverhampton Wanderers 3-0. Manchester United, who are already assured of a top-five finish, were held to a 0-0 draw at Sunderland.

Enzo Fernandez's free kick secured a point for Chelsea to end the club's six-game losing run in the Premier League and earn caretaker manager Calum MacFarlane a first point in charge. Liverpool had taken an early lead with a wonderful strike from

FOOTBALL

the edge of the box by Ryan Gravenberch.

Arne Slot's Liverpool remained fourth in the table with 59 points from 36 games although they could drop to fifth if Aston Villa, who have 58 points, win at relegated Burnley on Sunday.

Liverpool's fans vented their frustration at Anfield with derision greeting Slot's decision to substitute teenager Rio Ngumoha while there were boos at the final whistle. With sixth place potentially coming with a Champions League berth, should Villa win the Europa League final and finish fifth in the table, Bournemouth are still in the hunt for a dream debut in Europe's elite club competition. Brazilian teenager Rayan struck home a low shot early in the second half for Bournemouth after being teed up by Adam Smith.

Bournemouth were then reduced to 10 men when Ryan Christie's yellow card for a lunging tackle on Timothy Castagne in the 39th minute was upgraded to a red following a VAR check.

Within minutes Fulham were also down to 10 men though as Joachim Andersen was dismissed in first-half added time, again after a VAR review, following a challenge on Adrien Truffert.

Josh King came closest to an equaliser for Fulham with an effort against the underside of the crossbar in added time. Fulham stayed in 11th place, seven points behind Bournemouth with two games remaining.

LEIPZIG SEAL CL BERTH

RB Leipzig sealed Champions League qualification with a 2-1 win over St. Pauli on Saturday on a dramatic day in the Bundesliga's race for Europe. Goals from Xaver Schlager and Willi Orban saw Leipzig secure third place with a game to spare.Meanwhile, Borussia Dortmund came from a goal down to battle past visitors Eintracht Frankfurt 3-2 on Friday, to secure second place in the Bundesliga with one game left.

Select results: Spanish league: Elche 1 (Rodriguez 72) drew with Alaves 1 (Martinez 51-pen); Sevilla 2 (Castrin 82, Adams 90+1) bt Espanyol 1 (Dolan 56). **Italian league:** Cagliari 0 Udinese 2 (Buksa 56, Gueye 90+6); Lazio 0 lost to Inter Milan 3 (Martinez 6, Sucic 39, Mkhitaryan 76). AGENCIES

Getty Images

GOAL MACHINE: Erling Haaland scored Manchester City's second goal against Brentford on Saturday. City cruised to a 3-0 win

Tchouameni in Real's squad

Real Madrid coach Alvaro Arbeloa said Aurelien Tchouameni will be in his team's squad to face Barcelona on Sunday in La Liga, despite his confrontation with team-mate Fede Valverde.

The Uruguay captain was treated in hospital for a head injury and will miss up to a fortnight while he recovers, after the two players argued at the end of training on Thursday.

Real Madrid fined France international Tchouameni and Valverde on Friday and said both midfielders had apologised to each other and the club, fans, staff and team-mates.

If Real Madrid fail to beat Barcelona, the Catalans will be crowned Spanish champions for a second consecutive season. AFP

Abhinav & Shaina enter title round

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Karnataka's Abhinav Garg defeated Telangana's Akhil Reddy Bobba in a gripping three-set encounter to storm into the final of the All India Junior Ranking Badminton Tournament here on Saturday. In the semifinals at the Karnataka Badminton Association Courts, the Bengaluru shuttler registered a hard-fought 21-9, 19-21, 21-19 victory.

Abhinav will face Telangana's Gnana Dattu in the title clash after the latter ended Karnataka's Hardik Divyansh's impressive run with a 21-19, 21-13 win.

JR BADMINTON

Meanwhile, playing the second semifinal, Akhil raced to an early lead in the opening game before Abhinav regained control after settling into rhythm. Using smart placements and delicate dribbles, Abhinav forced his opponent to cover the court constantly and comfortably wrapped up the first game.

The second game saw Akhil fight back strongly as the two matched each other point for point. The rallies became longer and more intense, showcasing excellent court coverage and endurance from both players. Akhil pulled ahead after the 14-point mark and held his nerve to take the game 21-19.

The decider turned into a tense battle with the scores locked at 19-19 before Abhinav showed composure in crucial moments to close out the match.

TOI

ON COURSE: Abhinav Garg

SHAINA ADVANCES

Karnataka's top seed Shaina Manimuthu continued her impressive run, defeating Tamil Nadu's Adarshini Shri 21-16, 21-15 in the girls' semifinals. Shaina will now take on Odisha's Tanvi Patri in what promises to be an exciting final. Tanvi eased past Haryana's Akshita Gulia 21-8, 21-9 in the other semifinal.

Results (Semifinals): Boys: Singles: Abhinav Garg (Kar) bt 7-Akhil Reddy Bobba (Tel) 21-9, 19-21, 21-19; 14-Gnana Dattu (Tel) bt Hardik Divyansh (Kar) 21-19, 21-13. **Doubles:** Aanayan Borah (Asm)/Bjorn Jaison (Ker) bt Abhishek Bonu (AP)/Sai Siddharth Rayaprolu (Tel) 21-16, 23-21; Pavan S/Punith S (Kar) bt Divyansh Agrawal (Chd)/Amarjit Singh (MP) 21-13, 15-21, 21-15. **Girls: Singles:** 1-Shaina Manimuth (Kar) bt Adarshini Shri NB (TN) 21-16 21-15; Tanvi Patri (Odi) bt Akshita Gulia (Har) 21-8 21-9. **Doubles:** Diya Bheemaiah (Kar)/Barumi Parshwal (Har) bt Durga Esha (AP)/Keerthy Manchala (Tel) 21-10, 21-18; Anushkaa Jennifer/Dheeshitha Singha (TN) bt Varna Prabhuanand (TN)/Suhina Roy (Kar) 21-18, 21-14. – **Jia Khosla**

Kalamitsi wins Kunigal Stud Trophy

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The ten-to-one long shot Kalamitsi, from trainer Sulaiman Attaollahi's yard, piloted by Trevor Patel, shocked the punters, winning the Kunigal Stud Trophy, the feature event, run over a sprint at the summer races here on Saturday.

1. The Chantille Plate - 1500M: Pledge 1, Assurances 2, Alamgir 3, Star Of India 4, 3-3/4l, 1-1/2l, 1-1/4l. T: 1:33.32. Tote: Rs 25 (W). 10, 14, 11 (P). Fc: Rs 134. Q: Rs 60. Shp: Rs 37. Thp: Rs 37. Trinalla: Rs 288 & 62. Exacta: Rs 519 & 210.

2. The Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti Trophy - 1300M: Rodney 1, Circle Of Dreams 2, Waitara 3, Thessalian 4. 1l, 5l, Hd. T: 1:19.01. Tote: Rs 56 (W). 15, 10, 19 (P). Fc: Rs 98. Q: Rs 30. Shp: Rs 44. Thp: Rs 38. Trinalla: Rs 431 & 256. Exacta: Rs 2317 & 1456.

3. The Dupont Plate - 1200M: Jalwa 1, Annabelle 2, Razzmatazz 3, White Secret 4. 1-3/4l, 1l, 1l. T: 1:15.48 Tote: Rs 219 (W). 37, 12, 13 (P). Fc: Rs 896. Q: Rs 287 Shp: Rs 32. Thp: Rs 39. Trinalla: Rs 2685 & 732. Exacta: Rs 16,847 & 21,660.

4. The Kunigal Stud Trophy - 1200M: Kalamitsi 1, Ricardo 2, Excellent Lass 3, Never Give 4, 1/2l, 2l, 3/4l. T: 1:12.71. Tote: Rs 47 (W). 18, 25 (P). Fc: Rs 340. Q: Rs 129. Shp: Rs 35. Thp: Rs 52. Trinalla: Rs 229 & 78. Exacta: Rs 515 & 416.

5. The Dean Stephens Memorial Trophy - 1400M: Siege Storm 1, Ashwa New York 2, The Archer 3, Atman 4, 4-1/2l, 3/4l, Nkl. T: 1:25.85 Tote: Rs 20 (W). 11, 18, 13 (P). Fc: Rs 193. Q: Rs 128. Shp: Rs 55. Thp: Rs 47. Trinalla: Rs 321 & 79. Exacta: Rs 1389 & 829.

6. The Azhar Plate - 1200M: Final Call 1, Flash 2, Roadrunner 3, Ebotse 4. Shd, 1/2l, 2-1/4l. T: 1:14.38 Tote: Rs 13 (W). 12, 26, 18 (P). Fc: Rs 186. Q: Rs 129. Shp: Rs 99. Thp: Rs 46. Trinalla: Rs 736 & 228. Exacta: Rs 3768 & 1614.

Jackpot: Rs 18304. **Runner-up:** Rs 7409. **Mini Jackpot:** Rs 6094. **First Treble:** Rs 4927. **Second Treble:** Rs 363

Sunshine for Mother's Day Trophy

Bengaluru: The Irfan Ghatala-trained Sunshine—to be piloted by Suraj Narredu— looks outstanding in the Mother's Day Trophy, to be run over a distance of 1500 metres, at the summer races here on Sunday.

The main threat to Sunshine will come from Darius Byramji-schooled Maana and the top-weighted The Leader. Maana holds the edge and is set to run Sunshine close. First race starts at 3 pm.

The Royal Challenge Plate - 1500M: Agape 1, Palma 2. **The Razeen Plate - (Div II) 1400M:** Agrador 1, Refined Aggression 2. **The Agumbe Plate - 1200M:** Senor Cherie 1, Silicon Star 2. **The Mother's Day Trophy - 1500M:** Sunshine 1, Maana 2. **The Capricorn Stud Plate - 1300M:** Lux Aeteran 1, Jersey King 2. **The Razeen Plate - (Div I) 1400M:** Valiant Stream 1. El Rey 2. **Day's best:** Senor Cherie. **Jackpot:** 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 **Mini Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5 & 6 **First Treble:** 1, 2 & 3 **Second Treble:** 4, 5 & 6 TNN

NIEMANN POCKETS TITLE

Hans Niemann, the 22-year-old American who is world No. 12 in classical chess, capitalised on his chances to win the GCT Super Rapid & Blitz Poland title ahead of a more celebrated field in Warsaw on Saturday. The wildcard pocketed the top prize of $50,000 with five wins, two defeats and two draws. Niemann tallied 22.5 points and kept his nearest rivals in the 10-player field at bay.

D Gukesh lost a second blitz game in as many days to his World Championship challenger, Javokhir Sindarov. Gukesh and Sindarov finished sixth and tied seventh respectively. TNN

SNAP SHOTS

Ramit, Velavan out

India's singles challenge ended at the World Squash Championships with the defeats of Ramit Tandon and Velavan Senthilkumar in Giza, Egypt on Saturday. A day after Veer Chotrani edged out higher-ranked compatriot Abhay Singh in the first round, world No. 40 Tandon lost to Egyptian world No. 21 Kareem El Torkey 6-11 11-7 6-11 0-11. World No. 50 Senthilkumar went down to world No. 5 Victor Crouin, the Frenchman, who won 11-8 11-8 11-3.

Neeru finishes seventh: Neeru Dhanda, an Asian and national champion finished seventh in the women's trap final at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup as India's medal drought in the competition continued in Almaty, Kazakhstan on Saturday. The 25-year-old, who won gold at last year's Asian Championships in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, was the first to be eliminated in the eight-shooter final after managing seven hits in the opening 10-shot elimination stage.

Toor wins shot put title: Punjab's Tajinderpal Singh Toor won the men's shot put title in the fifth-leg of the Indian Athletics Series in Sangrur, Punjab on Saturday, as the reigning Asian Games champion continued his preparations for the major competitions later this season. The 31-year-old Toor dominated the men's shot put event as he sent the iron ball to 19.97m to emerge on top.

Suarez open to Uruguay return: Uruguay striker Luis Suarez has left the door open for an international return, saying he would reverse his retirement if he is needed for this year's World Cup, potentially returning to the national side after over a 19-month absence. He retired from international football in Sept 2024.

Yuvraj makes cut: Yuvraj Sandhu was the lone Indian to make the cut at the Estrella Damm Catalunya Championship leaderboard in Barcelona. Sandhu, who shot 4-under 68 on the first day, carded even par on the second day. He was placed at T-16. However, two other Indians in the field Shubhankar Sharma (71-74) and Veer Ahlawat (75-72) missed the cut.

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SPOTLIGHT

With 'Unskipped: Us on Loop', Himalaya Wellness and Spotify Reimagine the Mother-Daughter Bond

There's something about music that words often fail to do. It fills silences, softens distance, and sometimes, even repairs relationships. This Mother's Day, Himalaya Neem Face Wash, in collaboration with Spotify, tapped into this very truth with a campaign that felt less like marketing and more like a lived experience.

Titled 'Unskipped: Us on Loop', the initiative explored a familiar yet rarely articulated dynamic, i.e., the evolving, often complicated relationship between mothers and their teenage daughters. Because if you think about it, somewhere between the ages of 12 and 16, something shifts. Conversations become shorter, eye-rolls more frequent, and the easy comfort of childhood gives way to a quiet distance. Himalaya Neem Face Wash has always understood this phase. It has been the brand showing up for teenage girls at exactly this moment, when everything about them is changing, and their relationship with their mother is quietly being renegotiated. Yet, in many homes, one thing continues uninterrupted - a shared love for music.

A DAY DEDICATED TO LAUGHTER AND BONDING

What seemed like another Mother's Day event turned into something much more. It was a space filled with laughter, familiar songs and moments that felt both light and personal. At the centre of it all was 'Unskipped: Us on Loop', which truly stood out and kept everyone engaged.

Mothers and daughters weren't just attending an event; they were experiencing each other. Through music, games, and shared interactions, you could see the dynamic play out in real time – playful, awkward, warm and honest, all at once. And what stood out most was how easily music brought them onto the same wavelength.

MOTHER-DAUGHTER EVOLVING EQUATION

Every mother-daughter relationship evolves. There are phases of closeness, distance, and rediscovery. But even when conversations fall short, something as simple as a song often bridges the gap, effortlessly connecting two generations. Himalaya Wellness has understood this phase for years. Its communication around the Himalaya Neem Face Wash has consistently drawn on the mother-daughter relationship, rooted in care, familiarity, and trust. What's interesting, however, is how they're now building on that same thought.

MUSIC BECAME THE EMOTIONAL CENTREPIECE

With 'Unskipped: Us on Loop', Himalaya Wellness isn't changing its core idea; it's evolving it. By bringing music into the narrative, the brand speaks to a newer generation that expresses itself through shared cultural moments, while still holding on to the emotional truth that resonates with the older generation. It's a smart shift, one that doesn't abandon an existing audience, but expands it.

The evening became a reflection of this approach. It culminated in a live performance by acclaimed Indo-Canadian singer and performer Jonita. She is famed for seamlessly blending Bollywood, pop, and independent music. She brought an energy to the evening where the room felt completely in sync, no labels, no generational divide, just a shared moment. As Jonita took the stage, her voice, familiar across generations, became the emotional high point of the evening. Mothers sang along to songs they loved, daughters joined in with equal enthusiasm, and somewhere in that shared rhythm, barriers dissolved.

The experience was later captured as it unfolded, turning into a film that feels real, unscripted, and true to the relationship it represents.

STAYING ROOTED AND REAL

In a space where brands often chase newness for the sake of it, Himalaya Wellness shows that sometimes, the strongest ideas are the ones you stay rooted in while finding fresh, relevant ways to tell them. Instead of a scripted campaign film, Himalaya chose to capture real, unscripted moments - the kind you don't rehearse. A mother pulling her daughter into an unexpected hug. Shared laughter over forgotten memories. Quiet smiles exchanged during a song. Because between then and now, some bonds don't change. They just find new ways to stay in sync.

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Kids Gym
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Rock Climbing
Lego Wall

Learning
Library
Arts & Crafts Room
Crèche
Business Centre
Co-Working Space
Learning Centre

Gym
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Sand Pit
Kids Jungle Gym
Children's Play Area
Trampoline
Tot Lot
Skating Rink
Interactive Floor Games

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Meditation Pavilion
Outdoor Gym
Multipurpose Sports Court
Cricket Practice Net
Mini Maidan
Beach Volley Ball Court
Lawn Volley Ball Court
Tennis Court
Basket Ball Court
Pickle Ball Court
Kabaddi Court

Swimming Pool Amenities
Adults Pool
Kids Pool
Kids Splash Pad
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Pool Volley Ball Net
Water Slide
Pool Side Lounges
Refreshment Counter
Pool Side Theatre
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Pool Side Seating
Jacuzzi

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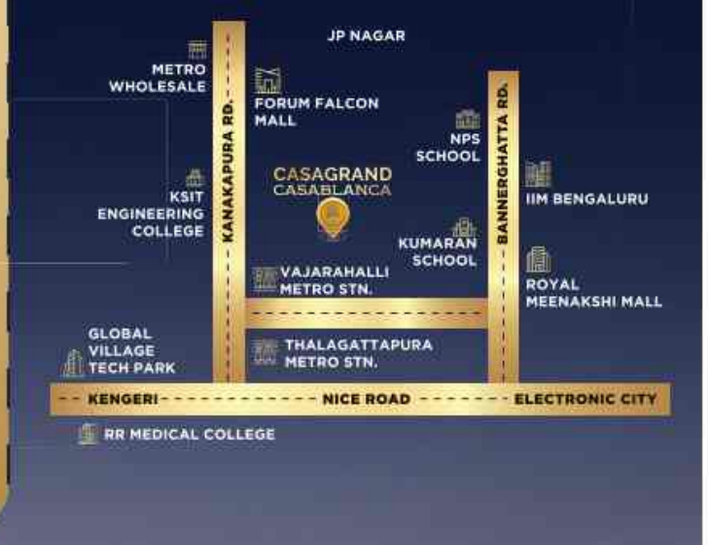

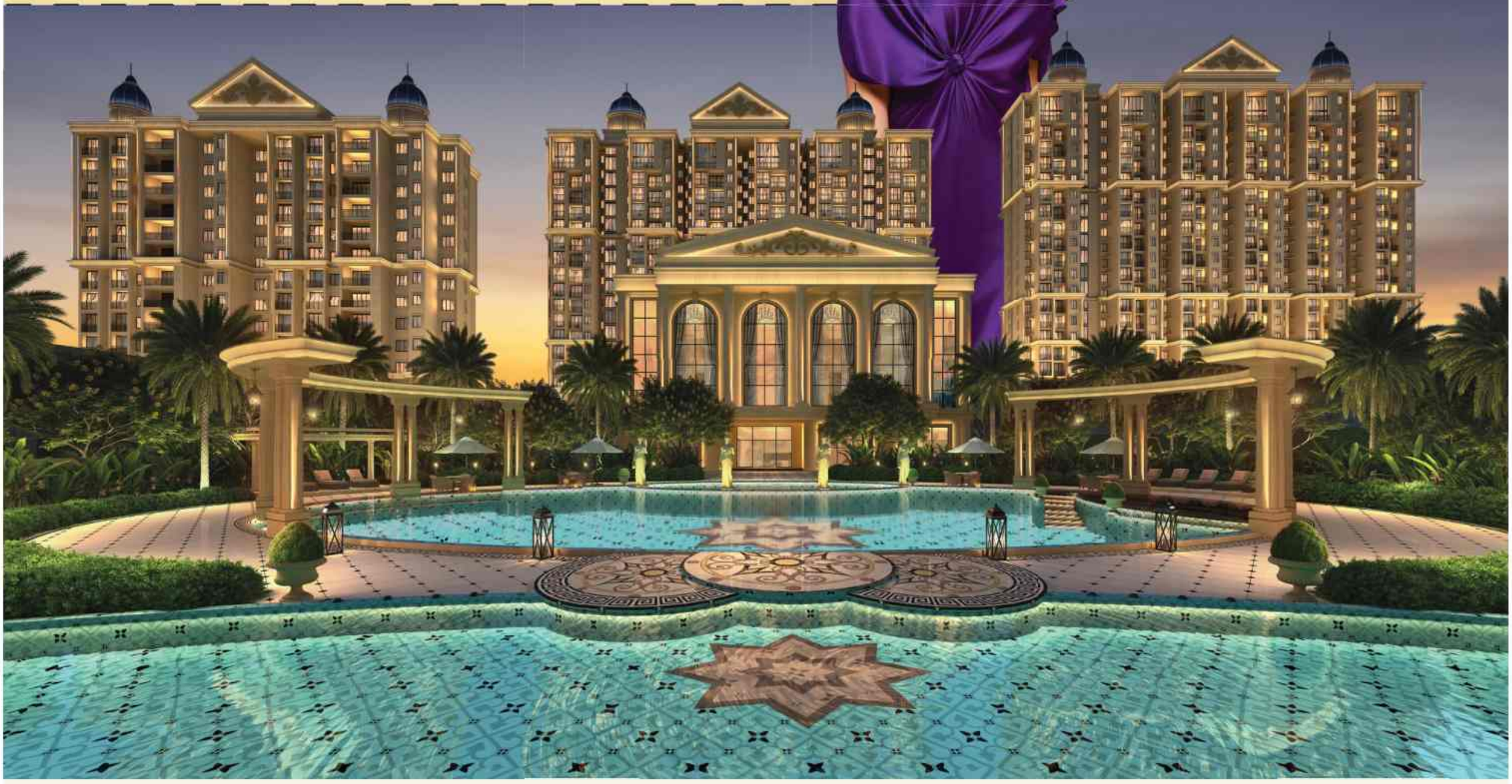

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Ahead of Trump's China visit next week, jailed HK pro-democracy activist & media tycoon Jimmy Lai's son hopes US prez can help secure his release

SUNDAY TIMES OF INDIA

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HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

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US, Iran talks likely next week

Tehran: Won't Pay Attention To Deadlines

US and Iran could resume negotiations as early as next week in Islamabad, according to a report by the Wall Street Journal citing people familiar with the matter. The report said both sides are working through mediators on the one-page, 14-point MoU intended to establish the framework for a month-long negotiating process aimed at ending the conflict. One of the main sticking points is the scope of potential sanctions relief for Tehran.

Meanwhile, a tenuous ceasefire appeared to be holding Saturday after US struck two Iranian oil tankers, while Bahrain, which hosts the US navy's regional headquarters, said it arrested 41 people it alleged were linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guard. Bahrain is led by a Sunni monarchy but, like Iran, has a majority Shia population. Rights groups have said the kingdom has used the war as an excuse to crack down on dissent. Iran issued a warning to Bahrain. "Siding with the US-backed resolution will bring severe consequences. The Strait of Hormuz is a vital lifeline; do not risk closing it on yourselves FOREVER," Ebrahim Azizi, head of the national security commission of Iran's Parliament, said on social media.

Britain's defence ministry said it was deploying a warship to join a potential mission to protect commercial ships in the Strait of Hormuz once hostilities end. The ministry said the HMS Dragon will "pre-position" in the region, ready to join a UK and French-led security plan. France announced this week it was moving its aircraft carrier strike group into the Red Sea.

In response to voices from US that they expected a response to their proposal soon, Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said the country was not paying attention to "deadlines". A top Iranian official also said Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei was in "complete health" and eventually would appear in public. AGENCIES

AFP

A responder stands by a body bag as colleagues search the rubble for victims at the site of an Israeli airstrike in Lebanon Saturday

US sanctions firms in China, Hong Kong

US on Friday announced sanctions against 10 individuals and companies, including several in China and Hong Kong, over accusations they aided Iran's efforts to secure weapons and the raw materials needed to build its Shahed drones and ballistic missiles. The move comes days before Donald Trump's visit to China to meet Xi Jinping. REUTERS

UAE slips hidden oil tankers through strait

With their location trackers shut off to avoid Iranian attacks, UAE and buyers have recently sailed several tankers loaded with crude through the Strait of Hormuz in a bid to move oil bottled up in the Gulf, according to industry sources and shipping data.

The volumes are a fraction of UAE's typical exports before the war on Iran but they demonstrate the risks the producer and buyers are willing to take to free up oil sales.

In April, UAE's Abu Dhabi National Oil Co managed to export at least 4 million barrels of its Upper Zakum crude and 2 million barrels of Das crude on four tankers from terminals inside the Gulf, according to three sources, shiptracking data from Kpler and an analysis of satellite data from SynMax.

The shipments were either unloaded by ship-to-ship transfer to a vessel that later carried the oil to Southeast Asia, unloaded into storage in Oman or sailed directly to South Korean refineries, according to the three sources. ADNOC declined to comment.

Kpler data showed the VLCC Hafeet loaded 2 million barrels of Upper Zakum inside the Gulf on April 7 and exited the strait on April 15. Outside the strait, the cargo was transferred to the Greek-flagged VLCC Olympic Luck on April 17-18 and shipped to the Pengerang refinery in Malaysia.

For Abu Dhabi's Das crude, the VLCC Aliakmon I loaded 2 million barrels on April 27 and exited the strait on May 2, discharging at Oman's Ras Markaz on May 3, Kpler data showed. Kpler and SynMax also found two Suezmax tankers carrying 1 million barrels each of Upper Zakum, headed to South Korea after exiting the strait. REUTERS

Will use office to serve, not rule, says new Hungary PM

Budapest: Hungary's Peter Magyar, 45, took his oath of office on Saturday to become the country's new PM, ending Viktor Orban's 16 years of autocratic rule. Magyar's centre-right Tisza party defeated Orban's nationalist-populist Fidesz in a stunning blow last month, gaining more votes and seats in Parliament than any other party in Hungary's post-Communist history.

The win, which gave Tisza a two-thirds parliamentary majority, will allow it to roll back many of the policies that gave Orban a reputation among his critics as a far-right authoritarian.

In a speech to lawmakers in Hungary's parliament after being sworn in, Magyar said he would not use his office to "rule" Hungary, "but to serve my homeland".

"I'm not standing here because I'm different from anyone else in the country," Magyar said. "I stand here because millions of Hungarians decided that they want change." Magyar has vowed to restore democratic institutions and governmental checks and balances that were heavily eroded during Orban's rule, and to clamp down on alleged corruption.

His govt is expected to transform political dynamics within EU, where the former PM had upended the bloc by frequently vetoing key decisions, most recently concerning support for Ukraine.

In his speech Saturday, Magyar referenced his intentions to hold former officials accountable for past abuses, saying voters had "given us a mandate to open a new chapter in Hungary's history".

"We must understand, however, that there can be no new beginning without reconciliation... no reconciliation without justice... no justice without confronting the past," he said. AP

Peter Magyar had earlier called on Hungarians to attend an all-day 'regime-change' celebration on Kossuth Square outside Parliament

Nato countries brace for Trump to pull more troops

US allies in Europe anticipate that President Donald Trump will withdraw more forces from the continent after he announced he would pull 5,000 troops out of Germany, people familiar with the matter said.

Top diplomats from Nato allies forecast that Trump will announce more drawdowns, possibly including from Italy, and scrap a plan dating back to Joe Biden's presidency to station long-range missiles in Germany, said the sources.

Other scenarios include the US ending participation in some military exercises and diverting forces from countries it's unhappy with to others that are seen as more supportive, they said. The Pentagon declined to comment. BLOOMBERG

No end-to-end encryption on Instagram now

US tech giant Meta has officially switched off end-to-end encrypted direct messages on Instagram, discontinuing the privacy-focused feature for users globally. The company said users with existing encrypted chats were being notified inside the app and urged to download any important media or messages they wished to keep.

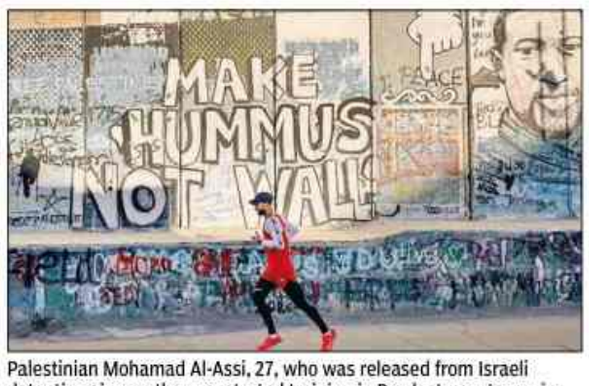
The move marks a reversal from Meta's plans to make encrypted messaging a standard feature across its apps. End-to-end encryption ensures only the sender and receiver can read messages. When the feature is removed, Meta will be able to access message content, including videos and voice notes, if required. IANS

Israel widens Gaza control, plans more ops

Israel has expanded its control of Gazan territory and is considering more intense military action, further squeezing the war-torn enclave. The army advanced beyond the agreed temporary boundary and now controls 60% of Gaza, finance minister Bezalel Smotrich said this week. That figure was corroborated by another Israeli official and a foreign diplomat involved in monitoring the ceasefire. The original boundary gave Israel control of 53%.

"We are advancing and moving the yellow line and deepening the destruction of infrastructures," Smotrich said. It's been seven months since US President Donald Trump announced the Gaza ceasefire. The truce was to begin the area's rehabilitation following two years of Israeli strikes that killed tens of thousands of people and reduced vast sections to rubble. But with the wars in Iran and Lebanon shifting the focus away from Gaza, it's been sinking deeper into misery. Hamas isn't disarming, Israel is stepping up air strikes, and hundreds have been killed since the ceasefire went into effect.

Smotrich said Hamas's ability to re-arm is severely limited, but the group must be defeated. "We shall have to decide at what moment we'll go back to fighting in Gaza, and in what configuration," he said. Israel is weighing further air strikes to keep Hamas from rebuilding, a senior aide to Netanyahu said. That would likely entail district-by-district attacks. BLOOMBERG



Palestinian Mohamad Al-Assi, 27, who was released from Israeli detention six months ago, started training in Dec last year to run in the Palestine Marathon, held for the first time in three years on Friday

Plane with 231 flyers runs over jaywalker, engine catches fire

Washington/Denver: A Frontier Airlines plane hit and killed a pedestrian on the Denver International Airport runway during takeoff, airport authorities said, sparking an engine fire and forcing passengers to evacuate.

"DEN can confirm that the pedestrian jumped the perimeter fence and was hit just two minutes later while crossing the runway," the statement said, adding, "The pedestrian is deceased, and is not believed to be an employee of the airport nor have they been identified."

The person "was at least partially consumed by one of the engines", ABC News reported citing an official.

The Airbus A321, bound for Los Angeles, was carrying 224 passengers and seven crew members, according to Frontier.

The person 'was at least partially consumed by one of the engines', ABC News reported citing an official

"We're stopping on the runway, we just hit somebody, we have an engine fire... There was an individual walking across the runway," the pilot of Frontier Airlines Flight 4345 told air traffic controllers at 11.19pm on Friday, according to audio from ATC.com.

The air traffic controller responded that they are "rolling the trucks now" before the pilot tells the tower they "have smoke in the aircraft. We are going to evacuate on the runway."

The plane was quickly evacuated and 12 passengers on the flight reported minor injuries. Five were transported to local hospitals, the airport said.

The Denver fire department said a brief engine fire was extinguished.

Transportation secretary Sean Duffy said local law enforcement was investigating the incident. "No one should EVER trespass on an airport," he wrote on X.

The airport authority said it had examined the fence line and found it to be intact. National Transportation Safety Board has been notified of the matter and the runway involved, 17L, will remain closed during the investigation. AGENCIES

Peace in Ukraine still a very long way off: Russia

Moscow: The Kremlin on Saturday said the US was in a hurry to clinch a peace deal to end the Ukraine war but getting to any sort of agreement was a very long way off because the issues were so complicated.

Russia and Ukraine confirmed on Friday that they had agreed to a US-brokered three-day ceasefire that would run from May 9 to May 11, and US President Donald Trump said he hoped it would be extended.

"It is understandable that the American side is in a hurry," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told state television reporter Pavel Zarubin. "But the issue of a Ukrainian settlement is far too complex, and reaching a peace agreement is a very long way with complex details."

Russian troops have been fighting in Ukraine for well over four years. REUTERS

Starmer appoints Brown as adviser after election flop

Naomi Canton

London: With Labour losing control of 36 councils and 1,436 councillors in the local polls and finishing second with Reform UK in the Scottish parliament, embattled PM Keir Starmer brought back former Labour PM **Gordon Brown** and appointed him as his "special envoy on global finance and cooperation" to "work with our international allies to build a stronger Britain".

Conservative MP Andrew Griffith tweeted a meme of Brown on a DeLorean outside No. 10 with the words "Back to the Past", saying: "As a 'Hail Mary pass' goes, bringing back Labour's biggest loser, who sold £40 billion of Britain's gold before leading Labour to a general election defeat, probably needs a bit of work..."

So far, 30 Labour MPs, including Barry Gardiner and Nadia Whittome, have called for Starmer to resign. But 80 Labour MPs would need to back anyone wanting to challenge his leadership under party rules. On TV, voters said they were fed up with the high cost of living, spiralling taxes, squeezed living standards and illegal immigration.

Reform UK by Saturday night, with just four councils left to declare, had gained 1,449 councillors and 14 councils, and the Greens gained 397 councillors and four councils. Labour MP Dan Carden wrote on X: "Britain's working and lower middle-class communities" see the Labour party "as run by and for progressive elites... the lanyard class".

Birmingham City council went from Labour-run to no overall control with a whole range of parties and 13 Independents, mostly Muslims on a Gaza ticket, winning. The alliance of Independent candidates was organised by activists Akhmed Yakoob and Shakeel Afsar. Afsar was part of the mob that descended on the Smethwick Hindu temple in Birmingham in 2022.

Call for Scottish independence

Scotland's push for another independence referendum could be back in play after nationalists emerged to dominate the country's devolved parliament. The Scottish National Party won a fifth straight term, though failed to get a majority in the legislature. But record support for the Greens, who also want Scotland to secede from UK, means together they have more than half of the 129 seats. First Minister John Swinney Saturday called for Scotland to be given independence before the next general elections, warning the anti-immigrant Reform UK would win. AGENCIES

Three PIOs found guilty of Canada couple's murder

Abbotsford: Three Indian-origin men have been found guilty of first-degree murder by a Canada court for the killing of a couple in Abbotsford, according to CBC News.

Arnold and Joanne De Jong were found dead in their residence in May 2022. British Columbia supreme court Justice Brenda Brown on Friday ruled that Gurkaran Singh, Abhijeet Singh and Khushveer Toor played an integral role in their murders. Prosecutors said the trio, who worked for a cleaning company, had jointly planned to rob and kill the couple. PTI

China exports jump 14.1% from a year ago

Hong Kong: China's exports rose 14.1% in April from a year earlier, govt said Saturday, despite the Iran war and lingering impacts from higher US tariffs. The data was released days ahead of a meeting between US President Donald Trump and Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in Beijing. This was a significant improvement from March's 2.5% year-on-year expansion. Exports to the US rose 11.3% from last year, up from a 26.5% drop in March. Imports climbed 25.3%, slower than the 27.8% growth in March. AP

IMF board clears Pak's access to $1.3bn fresh funds

International Monetary Fund said Friday its board had completed reviews of some of its agreements with Pakistan, clearing the way for the nation to access about $1.3 billion in fresh funding. IMF said Pakistan would be able to draw around $1.1 billion under the extended fund facility and about $220 million under the resilience and sustainability facility, lifting total disbursements under the two programmes to about $4.8 billion. REUTERS

Indonesian rescuers find hiker's body

Jakarta: Indonesian authorities Saturday located the position of two Singaporeans, although it was not known if they were alive, and recovered the body of an Indonesian female hiker after Mount Dukono erupted on Halmahera. "We have identified the coordinates. It's around the crater rim," rescue agency head Iwan Ramdani, said. "This is on drone surveillance and consistent with witness accounts." REUTERS

DAILY PLANET

Surfers in war-torn Gaza find relief and joy in waves

Despite the dire humanitarian crisis across the Gaza Strip, where a fragile ceasefire remains in place, a handful of Palestinian surfers are finding joy — and relief — riding the waves of the territory's Mediterranean coastal waters.

Only three or four men still surf due to a shortage of surfboards and the materials needed to fix damaged ones, said Tahseen Abu Assi, a surfer.

Assi carried his surfboard with him through every displacement he endured during the two-year war because, he said, he wouldn't be able to replace it. "If something happened to it I won't be able to get another one," he said, noting no boards have entered Palestinian territory since 2007.

Surfboards are among sports equipment banned by Israel. After the war began, the Israeli military heavily restricted sea activity in Gaza, with UN reporting some fishermen were attacked. Last year, Israel declared Gaza's waters a 'no-go zone', banning fishing, swimming and sea access. "There is fear of course, but we can't leave this sport," Assi said.

AP

'Affichage Libre' by artist Joachim Romain at Urban Art Biennale 2026 in Volklingen, Germany. Dozens of artists from 17 countries have converged on Volklingen Ironworks, one of Europe's most important industrial landmarks. The site is on Unesco's world heritage list

Writing on released note matches one found after Epstein death: Experts

A note that a former cellmate said he discovered after Jeffrey Epstein's first suspected jail suicide attempt was all but certainly penned by the same person as a note that authorities found in the millionaire sex offender's cell after he killed himself, handwriting experts say. Three forensic document examiners who reviewed the notes concluded that they have or appear to have common authorship, with shared characteristics such as spacing, letter shapes, usage of capital letters and unique punctuation.

In the first note, made public this week, the writer states: "They investigated me for month — found nothing!!!" and talks about being able to choose the "time to say goodbye." The other note, which has been public for years, is a list of grievances about conditions at the jail, including the showers, food and "Giant Bugs".

While no one has definitively said Epstein wrote the notes, they point to his grim outlook before his death and echo some frustrations he conveyed to jail personnel about being confined in the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan after living in luxury for decades. They also contain phrases he had used in the past.

Parent company of Trump's Truth Social reports $400m loss

The parent company of Truth Social, President Donald Trump's social media platform, reported a net loss on Friday of more than $400 million in the first quarter, mostly from tumbling cryptocurrency valuations. Trump Media & Technology Group (TMTG) reported revenue of less than $1 million for the three months ending March 31, according to a company filing. The US president, who routinely uses Truth Social to make official announcements, controls about 41% of TMTG's shares, which are held in the trust established to manage his financial interests during his presidency.

Hantavirus may've spread to remote island

Amsterdam: Health experts raced to contain a potential spread of hantavirus as two suspected cases emerged on Friday far from the luxury cruise liner where the outbreak started.

The latest reports involved a man who fell ill after leaving the ship and a woman who became sick after sitting near an infected cruise passenger on a plane.

The occurrences reported by health officials thousands of miles apart — one in Spain, the other on the remote South Atlantic island of Tristan da Cunha — are separate from WHO's tally of eight people who became ill aboard the Dutch-flagged ship, MV Hondius. Three of those people have died.

Four patients remained hospitalised on Friday in South Africa, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

The Hondius is en route to Tenerife in the Canary Islands, and expected to dock there early on Sunday.

The head of WHO sought on Saturday to reassure worried residents they were not in danger. WHO director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, along with Spain health minister Monica Garcia and interior minister Fernando Grande-Marlaska will coordinate disembarkation on the island.

"I know you are worried. I know that when you hear the word 'outbreak' and watch a ship sail toward your shores, memories surface that none of us have fully put to rest. The pain of 2020 is still real, and I do not dismiss it for a single moment," Tedros said. "But I need you to hear me clearly: This is not another Covid. The current public health risk from hantavirus remains low."

Passengers and crew will be screened before disembarking under guidelines being finalised by WHO and other agencies. AGENCIES

Didn't cause outbreak: Argentine province

Officials in Argentina's Tierra del Fuego province are challenging the idea that the deadly hantavirus outbreak may have emerged from there, and pushing for investigations into the other Argentine provinces that passengers visited before boarding the ill-fated Atlantic cruise ship.

Current and former officials in the archipelago insist that the virus did not originate from the trash heap in Ushuaia that national health authorities named earlier this week as the most likely place two tourists contracted it while bird-watching. "I believe we are facing a smear campaign against this destination," Juan Facundo Petrina, the province's director of epidemiology, told reporters on Friday. Federal officials didn't contact local authorities initially — instead, they discovered the purported Ushuaia connection via media reports, he said. AP

Vatican softens towards LGBTQ+ Catholics

Vatican City: The Vatican is sending new signals about how it intends to minister to LGBTQ+ Catholics in the Pope Leo XIV era, with signs of openness and limitations after Pope Francis ushered in a notable welcome during his 12-year pontificate.

Catholic LGBTQ+ advocates cheered this week when a Vatican working group released a report featuring the testimony of two gay, married Catholics who spoke about their sexuality, faith and how the church's negative teaching had hurt them.

Leo made clear during a recent news conference that he believed the church's teachings on social justice, equality and freedom were far more important than its teaching on sexual morality.

At that same conference, though, Leo indicated he would go no further than Francis on the contentious matter of same-sex blessings. The Vatican has recently renewed its opposition to any local efforts to deviate from the Holy See stance.

Rev James Martin, a Jesuit who has spearheaded the church's outreach to the LGBTQ+ community in the US, said, "If the Catholic Church has begun to listen to LGBTQ Catholics as part of its methodology, the church has already moved forward in a significant way."

But the signals have prompted criticism from conservatives, who have stressed official Catholic teaching says homosexuality is "intrinsically disordered".

The Vatican working group report summarised the work of experts studying controversial topics that emerged after Francis' year-long reform effort. The report has no binding value.

The testimony, contained in annexes published on the Vatican's synod website, featured accounts of how one man sometimes struggled with his faith because of insensitive remarks from a Catholic spiritual director and "conversion therapy". The other testimony, from an American, said, "My sexuality isn't a perversion, disorder, or cross; it's a gift from God." AP

Pope Leo has indicated he doesn't intend to prioritise the issue

Lankan monk held for sexual abuse of minor

Colombo: One of Sri Lanka's most senior Buddhist monks was arrested on Friday for the sexual abuse of a minor, police said. Venerable Pallegama Hemarathana (71) is the chief priest of a prominent temple. He was taken into custody from a private hospital after a magistrate's court in Anuradhapura issued an arrest warrant against him, as well as the girl's mother for allegedly aiding and abetting the child abuse. PTI

SUNDAY

MAY 10, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 32 | INCLUDING BANGALORE TIMES

Sahil Jadhav wins maiden WC medal with bronze in Shanghai. The archer defeats Denmark's Damsbo 147-144 **P 16**

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Vijay finally gets invite, to be sworn in TN CM today

Has To Prove Majority On Or Before May 13

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: TVK chief C Joseph Vijay will be sworn in as Tamil Nadu chief minister on Sunday. Days of uncertainty ended after DMK allies VCK and IUML extended unconditional support to TVK on Saturday. The oath-taking ceremony will be held at 10am at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai. Nine others, including former minister K A Sengottaiyan, Aadhav Arjuna and Arunraj, will also take oath.

▶**TN Congress MLAs not in Bengaluru: DKS, P 4**

Governor R V Arlekar has asked CM-designate Vijay to prove his majority in the state legislative assembly on or before May 13. Vijay met the governor on Saturday evening and submitted to him letters of support from Congress, VCK, IUML and the Left parties.

"The governor issued an order appointing Vijay as the chief minister and invited him to form the ministry," Lok Bhavan said.

The chiefs of parties supporting TVK were present when Vijay visited the governor's office for the fourth time in less than a week to stake claim to form govt. VCK and IUML extended unconditional support to TVK Saturday, helping Vijay reach 120, more than the required simple majority mark of 118 MLAs in 234-member assembly.

▶**Continued on P 11**

WANT TO AVOID PREZ RULE: VCK, IUML

- TVK chief Vijay gets unconditional support of **4 VCK-IUML MLAs** on Saturday
- **TVK reaches 120** (excluding one of Vijay's 2 seats), past the 118 majority mark in the 234-member assembly
- VCK says outside support **doesn't mean exit from DMK-led alliance**
- VCK chief Thirumavalavan and IUML say they are **backing TVK to prevent Prez Rule**

Photo: PTI

Vijay gets letter of appointment as CM-designate from guv Arlekar

- Vijay also has **unconditional support of Congress (5), CPI (2), CPM (2)**

VCK: Will support but won't join TVK govt

Despite pressure from within party to join TVK govt, VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan resisted, saying cabinet berths shouldn't come at the cost of political "credibility built over 30 years of hard work", a party member said. VCK instead chose to extend outside support while staying out of cabinet. **P 11**

'I was assaulted & starved': IIM-B staffer's nanny

A 23-year-old nanny from Manipur has accused her employer's spouse of confinement, assault and starvation at a residence on the campus of Indian Institute of Management Bangalore. In her complaint to Mico Layout police, C Nianghaunuam alleged that the assault began in 2021, two years after she joined the family to look after the couple's children. After the latest assault on April 15, she was locked inside the house. From May 4, she was denied food, she stated in her complaint. IIMB said the nanny has been provided the needed help. **P 2**

Premji varsity suspends student for 2 yrs over Kashmir event row

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Bengaluru: Azim Premji University (APU) has suspended one of its students for two years and issued written warnings to two others over a controversy surrounding a reading event on a contentious Kashmir-centric issue and the on-campus violence that followed in protest to the planned event on Feb 24 this year.

The suspended student is likely to seek a review of the decision. On Friday, more than 40 students gathered on campus, demanding revocation of the suspension.

The students held discussion marking 35 years of Kunan Poshpora incident in Kashmir in which some Army personnel were accused of atrocities against women in the twin villages of Kunan and Poshpora. Official probe subsequently closed the case, stating the claims were "baseless".

▶**No specific reasons, P 4**

REVOKE SUSPENSION: COLLEGEMATES

- **Dispute centres on a discussion** organised by Spark APU on Feb 24, 2026, **on the Kunan Poshpora incident in Kashmir**
- **Outsiders allegedly belonging to ABVP** enter campus and **disrupt event even before it starts**
- The university suspends one student for 2 years and **issues warnings to two others**
- Over 40 students demand revocation of suspension, calling the **punishment 'equivalent to expulsion'**
- Students allege they were **being held responsible for violence carried out by outsiders**

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

CENSUS OF INDIA - 2027 FIRST PHASE

HOUSELISTING OPERATION

Public residing within the jurisdiction of the Greater Bengaluru Area are hereby informed that the first phase of Census of India –2027, Houselisting Operation is currently in progress across all City Corporations and will be completed by 15.05.2026.

Residents are requested to kindly cooperate with the Enumerators and Supervisors deputed for Census duty and furnish the required information accurately and in case if the enumeration of your house / apartment / establishment has been left out or if no Enumerator has visited your premises, you are requested to immediately contact the respective City Corporation Control Room through the numbers given below:

BENGALURU CITY CORPORATION	CONTROL ROOM CONTACT NUMBERS
Bengaluru Central City Corporation	080-22975803 / 9480685702
Bengaluru East City Corporation	080-28512300 / 080-28512301 / 9480685706
Bengaluru West City Corporation	080-23561692 / 080-23463366 / 9480685703
Bengaluru North City Corporation	080-22975936 / 080-28636671 / 9480685705
Bengaluru South City Corporation	080-26566362 / 080-22975703 / 9480685704

Your cooperation is essential for ensuring complete and accurate coverage

Every Household Counts

Chief Commissioner
Greater Bengaluru Authority, Bengaluru

India to ramp up devpt aid for Africa at upcoming summit

'Lot Of Engagements Between 2 Nations During Past 10 Years'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India's economic and development cooperation with Africa – including in key areas like agriculture, health, defence, technology and people-to-people connect – is set to get a major boost with the govt hosting the 4th India-Africa summit later this month, after a gap of 11 years. While the summit was delayed because of the pandemic, official sources said there has been no dearth of engagements between India and Africa during the past 10 years, with around 50 high-level visits to Africa from India and almost 100 from the continent to India during this period.

According to sources, the govt is expected to announce major initiatives to ramp up development assistance for Africa at the summit, which is likely to see participation by more than 40 heads of state/ govt. The last summit saw India announcing a concessional $10 billion line of credit (LOC) for Africa, where China continues to expand its economic and strategic footprint. PM Narenda Modi had also announced a $600 million grant assistance for Africa, under which India has already fulfilled its commitments. On the LOC though, out of the $10 billion announced, $4.5 billion-worth projects have been completed and delivered to African countries, according to official sources. "Our approach has been to build local capacity, empower local communities, and skilling. India's diplomatic footprint has expanded significantly too in the past 8 years with 17 new missions. In all, we have now 46 diplomatic missions in Africa, which clearly shows India's intent to engage more with Africa, and build friendship and partnership," said an official. Asked about competition with China, sources said India's ties with Africa are rooted in civilisational, historical context and in modern times, this partnership continues to grow.

"So our collaboration with Africa stands on its own footing. It has been growing, and this summit will give a new momentum to that collaboration across key pillars," said an official.

NAMASTE INDIA: Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi. Amid uncertainty over his participation, Iran is learned to have communicated to India that the visit is on his agenda

Iran foreign min likely to visit India for BRICS meeting next week

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New Delhi: Iran's foreign minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi is likely to visit India for the May 14-15 BRICS foreign ministers' meeting that will look to help address the situation in West Asia region. Amid uncertainty over his participation, Iran is learned to have communicated to India that the visit is on the foreign minister's agenda at this stage.

While Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov has already confirmed his participation, his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi will likely skip the event as his presence is required at the critical Donald Trump-Xi Jinping summit, dates for which are clashing with BRICS meeting. Araghchi's participation could still be contingent on whether the fragile US-Iran ceasefire holds, as another military flare-up may drastically alter the situation. Tehran is currently studying a 14-point US peace proposal, which seeks an end to Iran's uranium enrichment programme for at least 12 years in exchange for the gradual lifting of US sanctions.

Iran, however, attaches great importance to BRICS, which it joined in 2024 and both Araghchi and President Masoud Pezeshkian have urged India to work towards a consensus within the grouping for a joint statement against US-Israel actions in West Asia conflict.

DRDO: Test of Agni missile with multiple warheads a success

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New Delhi: The defence ministry on Saturday confirmed that India had successfully conducted flight-trial of an advanced Agni missile with multiple independently targeted re-entry vehicle (MIRV) system from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha coast on Friday.

MIRV technology allows a single ballistic missile to evade defences and deliver multiple nuclear warheads to different targets, significantly increasing its firepower. The Agni missile was flight-tested with multiple payloads, aimed at different targets spatially distributed over a large geographical area in Indian Ocean Region, the ministry said in a statement. With this successful trial, India had once again demonstrated the capability to target multiple strategic targets using a single missile system, it said.

DRDO successfully test-fired the advanced Agni missile with MIRV system from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast

TOI had reported on the test-launch of an Agni variant on Friday.

This was the second known test of the advanced Agni-5, also referred to as 'Mission Divyastra' — an MIRV-capable iteration of Agni-5 — which was first tested in March 2024. The nuclear-capable Agni-5 has an officially declared strike range of over 5,000 km, placing targets deep in Asia, including China, parts of Europe and Africa within its strike range.

Complimenting DRDO, the Army and the industry on successful flight-test, defence minister Rajnath Singh said, "This will add an incredible capability to the country's defence preparedness against growing threat perceptions."

The telemetry and tracking of flight-trial was carried out by multiple ground and ship-based stations. These systems tracked the entire missile trajectory from lift-off to the impact of all payloads. Flight data confirmed that all mission objectives were met, ministry statement said.

Parent, child not seeing eye to eye? Be gentle, but true to own values

To help readers cope with their anxieties in these stressful times, TOI's ***Talk it Out*** *series brings expert counsellors to answer your mental health queries. This week's advice is from counselling psychologist* ***Janice James***

I am a 15-year-old girl from Kolkata with an understanding, hardworking mother who always has my best interests at heart. I tell her most of my problems. But we also have differences. My strong beliefs often clash with her stoic and antiquated judgements. I have a tendency to mess up the verbal delivery of my thoughts, which makes it sound like I'm throwing a tantrum or being stubborn when I'm merely suggesting something. When that happens, she turns authoritative and starts lecturing me without taking into account my explanation. Being a writer and bibliophile, I spend most of my life in my mind — thinking, observing and writing. I am scared she will judge me and impose some kind of punishment if I accidentally overshare on my blog. I live in constant dread, waiting for the next screaming session or the next time she will make me feel I'll never be a mother like her to my own children. I make mistakes too, and feel remorse and regret. But I just want to be happy with who I am when I am around them. How should I make her understand that it's okay if she doesn't accept something about me, but that she can at least respect the fact that it's a part of me that will evolve? How should I tell her she can be a good friend to me without being a bad mother? Please advise.

— Anonymous

It must be quite frustrating to not be able to express yourself to your mother without being misunderstood or facing a backlash. It's understandable that you now hold back from sharing your true feelings. It's a way to protect yourself even though it creates distance. Sometimes, parents operate from their own beliefs and ideologies that make it difficult for them to fully understand their children. Communication, however, is a two-way process that involves expressing yourself clearly but also being heard. In order to support your side of this, you can try writing your thoughts down before you speak to her. This can help you organise your thoughts and communicate them more calmly. At the same time, it's important to understand what is and isn't under your control. Your mother may still not understand or respond in the way you want. The more you try to make her understand and respect you, the more you will feel disappointed when she doesn't. Setting small, realistic expectations and gently asserting your boundaries might help you stay true to your own values. Over time, this may allow for a more respectful relationship even if it's not perfect.

Image: AI

I am an 18-year-old B.Com 1st year student who recently went through a breakup. I loved my partner very much, but her father got to know about our relationship and brainwashed her into not talking to me, ultimately leading her to block me. I was desperate and didn't know what to do, so I went to her house one day to settle things. But that made matters worse. Now, she hates me and I'm going through a lot. I am very depressed and have lost my appetite. Please help.

— Anonymous

Breakups can be very painful, especially when you still love that person and the circumstances are not in your control. Your experience of sadness, desperation, and even loss of appetite are natural responses to this emotional shock. You tried to make things right but that ended up making it worse. Sometimes, despite good intentions, these actions can be overwhelming for the other person, especially when emotions are already intense. Right now, trying harder may not bring the outcome you're hoping for. Maybe giving her space and respecting her decision might be helpful, even though it's difficult. You're feeling scared, lost and helpless. Take some time out for yourself to acknowledge the loss you're experiencing. Reach out to people you trust to get the support you need right now. Gently shift your focus back to daily routines like eating, resting, attending college. Taking care of yourself is not moving on; it's helping yourself cope. With time, as the intensity of these emotions settle down, you'll be able to make decisions with more clarity.

I am a 27-year-old from Anantnag, the sole breadwinner for my mother and siblings, earning Rs 15,000 a month from a private job with no security. I desperately want to prepare for competitive exams to secure our future, but I am paralysed by doubt. I can only spare four hours daily for study, while others devote over nine hours. Is it realistic to compete under these constraints? I fear taking the first step and failing my family. Is it still possible for me to succeed with limited time? What should I do?

— Sheraz Yaqub Wani

First of all, it takes a lot of courage to provide for your family by yourself. Take a moment to acknowledge and appreciate all that you do. Secondly, given your situation, it's only natural to have certain doubts. But just because you're having doubts doesn't mean you're incapable. You may have fewer hours in the day to prepare for your exam than others. But if you stay consistent with those hours, it can be more effective than having longer hours and distracted studying. More than comparison, what matters is strategy and persistence. Right now, you're equating "limited time" with "possible failure". However, there are more possibilities out there. What if you succeed even with limited time? You are not alone; there are many people who are able to clear these competitive exams while working. That's because they strategise and make clear, small and achievable goals for themselves. Start small and create a realistic plan for your 4 hours of study. The fear of failure will only increase if you stop trying. When you take a step, even imperfectly, it creates a possibility. Yes, your circumstances are difficult. But don't let that hold you back from the future that you want to create for yourself and your family.

TalkitOut

WANT SOME ADVICE?

Sharing can help your recovery so write to us at **talkitout@timesofindia.com** with your question, name and place. But if you wish to stay anonymous, do indicate that in your email.

You can also visit bit.ly/TOITalkItOut or scan this QR code to send in your concern.